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ÆSOP'S FABLES,

ACCOMPANIED BY MANY HUNDRED

PROVERBS & MORAL MAXIMS,

SUITED TO THE

Subject of each Fable.



Here, every object of Creation
Will furnish hints for Contemplation;
And from the most minute and mean,
A virtuous mind can morals glean.

Dublin:

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1822.


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ÆSOP'S FABLES.

FAB. I.—THE COCK AND THE JEWEL.



All is not Gold that Glistens.

A BRISK young Cock, in company with two or three pullets, raking upon a dung-hill for something to entertain them with, happened to scrape up a jewel; he knew what it was well enough, for it sparkled with an exceedingly bright lustre; but not knowing what to do with it, he turned it over and over with contempt, and shrugging up his wings, shaking his head, and putting on a grimace, expressed himself to this purpose: "Indeed you are a very

fine thing: but I know not any business you have here. I make no scruple of declaring, that my taste lies quite another way; and I had rather have one grain of dear delicious barley, than all the jewels under the sun."

THE APPLICATION.

A wise man judges of things by their usefulness, and not by their appearance. Vanity delights in shew; but good sense loves what is really of service; for experience tells us, that many a bright berry contains poison.

FAB. II.—THE WOLF AND THE LAMB.



He that wishes for a quarrel will soon find an occasion, or he will make one.

One hot sultry day, a Wolf and a Lamb happened to come, just at the same time, to

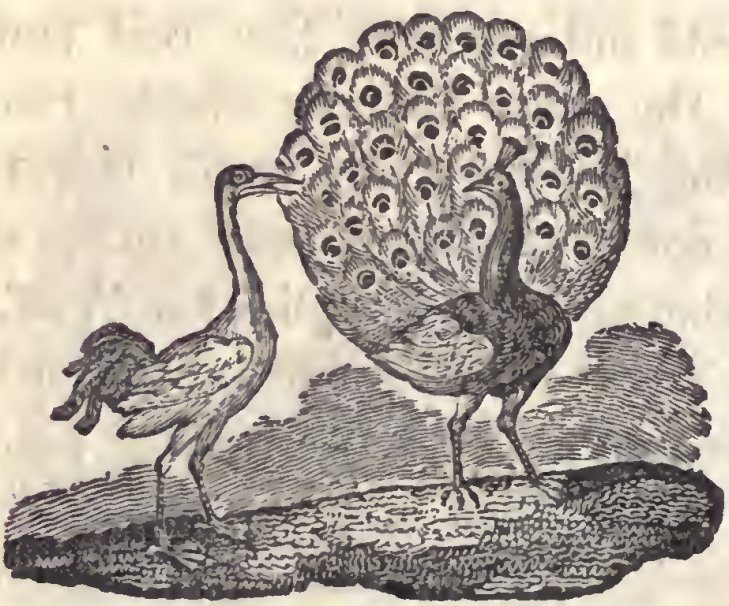
quench their thirst in the stream of a silver brook, that ran tumbling down the side of a rocky mountain. The Wolf stood upon the higher ground; and the Lamb at some distance from him, down the current. However, the Wolf, having a mind to pick a quarrel with him, asked him, what he meant by disturbing the water, and making it so muddy that he could not drink? and, at the same time, demanded satisfaction. The Lamb, frightened at this threatening charge, told him, in a tone as mild as possible, that, with humble submission, he could not conceive how that could be, since the water that he drank, ran down from the Wolf to him, and, therefore, it could not be disturbed so far up the stream. "Be that as it will," replies the Wolf, "you are a rascal; and I have been told that you treated me with ill language behind my back, about half a year ago."—"Upon my word," says the Lamb, "the time you mention, was before I was born." The Wolf, finding it to no purpose to argue any longer against truth, fell into a great passion, snarling and foaming at the mouth, as if he had been mad; and drawing

nearer to the Lamb, "Sirrah," says he, "if it was not you, it was your father, and that's all one."—So he seized the poor, innocent, helpless thing, tore it in pieces, and made a meal of it.

THE APPLICATION.

An ill-disposed man will seldom fail to find a cause of dispute, when he intends to do an injury. If you want a pretence, says the proverb, to whip a Dog, it is enough to say that he ate up the frying-pan. Beware, therefore, of quarrelsome companions, for with such, you play with edge-tools.

FAB. III.—THE VAIN JACKDAW.



Pride will have a fall.

A CERTAIN Jack-Daw was so proud and ambitious, that, not contented to live within his own sphere, he picked up the

feathers which fell from the peacocks, stuck them among his own, and very confidently introduced himself into an assembly of those beautiful birds. They soon found him out, stripped him of his borrowed plumes, and falling upon him with their sharp bills, punished him as his presumption deserved. Upon this, full of grief and affliction, he returned to his old companions, and would have flocked with them again; but they, knowing his late life and conversation, industriously avoided him, and refused to admit him into their company: and one of them, at the same time, gave him this serious reproof: "If, friend, you could have been contented with your station, and had not disdained the rank in which nature had placed you, you would not have been used so scurvily by those upon whom you intruded yourself, nor suffered the notorious slight, which now we think ourselves obliged to put upon you."

THE APPLICATION.

As a bird that wandereth from her nest, so is a man that wandereth from his place. He that conducts himself well in his proper station, receives honour; he that aims too high, is exposed and brought to shame.

FAB. IV.—THE DOG AND THE SHADOW.



Covetousness brings nothing home.

A Dog crossing a little rivulet, with a piece of flesh in his mouth, saw his own shadow represented in the clear mirror of the limpid stream; and believing it to be another Dog, who was carrying another piece of flesh, he could not forbear catching at it; but was so far from getting any thing by his greedy design, that he dropt the piece he had in his mouth, which immediately sunk to the bottom, and was irrecoverably lost.

THE APPLICATION.

He that aims at too much, often loses all. Content, they say, is a kingdom; and we know, that he who is satisfied with a little, deserves more.

FAB. V.—THE WOLF AND THE CRANE.



Never thrust your Thumbs between another Man's Grinders.

A WOLF, after devouring his prey, happened to have a bone stick in his throat, which gave him so much pain, that he went howling up and down, importuning every creature he met to lend him a kind hand in order to his relief; nay, he promised a reasonable reward to any one that should undertake the operation with success. At last the Crane, tempted with the lucre of the reward, and having first procured him to confirm his promise in a solemn manner, undertook the business, and ventured his long neck into the rapacious felon's throat. In short, he plucked out the bone, and expected the promised gra-

tuity. When the Wolf, turning his eyes disdainfully towards him, said: "I did not think you were so unconscionable; I had your head in my mouth, and could have bit it off whenever I pleased, but I suffered you to take it away without any damage, and yet you are not contented."

THE APPLICATION.

Prudence, they say, is the first of virtues; it will therefore be wise to know well the person in whom you are about to place confidence; for he who trusts an unprincipled fellow may smart for his folly.



FAB. VI.—THE STAG LOOKING INTO THE WATER.

Beauty may have fair leaves and bitter Fruit.

A STAG that had been drinking at a clear spring, saw himself in the water; and,

pleased with the prospect, stood, afterwards, for some time, contemplating and surveying his shape and features, from head to foot. "Ah!" says he, "what a glorious pair of branching horns is there! how gracefully do those antlers hang over my forehead, and give an agreeable turn to my whole face. If some other parts of my body were but proportionable to them, I would turn my back to nobody! but I have a set of such legs as really makes me ashamed to see them. People may talk what they please of their conveniences, and what great need we stand in of them, upon several occasions; but for my part, I find them so very slender and unsightly, that I had as lief have none at all." While he was giving himself these airs, he was alarmed with the noise of some huntsmen and a pack of hounds, that had been just laid on upon the scent, and were making towards him. Away he flies in some consternation; and bounding nimbly over the plain, threw dogs and men at a vast distance behind him. After which, running into a very thick copse, he had the ill fortune to be entangled by his horns in a thicket; where he was held fast

till the hounds came in and pulled him down. Finding now how it was like to go with him, in the pangs of death, he is said to have uttered these words: "Unhappy creature that I am! I am too late convinced, that what I prided myself in, has been the cause of my undoing; and what I so much disliked, was the only thing that could have saved me."

THE APPLICATION.

Vanity takes delight in what often proves injurious, and we often despise that which is to be the means of our preservation. We ought, therefore, to value things not by their appearances, but by their usefulness.

FAB. VII.—THE FOX AND THE CROW.



Vanity will prove Vexation.

A Crow, having taken a piece of cheese out of a cottage window, flew up into a

high tree with it, in order to eat it. A Fox, observing it, came and sat underneath, and began to compliment the Crow, upon the subject of her beauty. "I protest," says he, "I never observed it before, but your feathers are of a more delicate white, than any that I ever saw in my life! Ah! what a fine shape and graceful turn of body is there! And I make no question but you have a tolerable voice! If it be but as fine as your complexion, I do not know a bird that can pretend to stand in competition with you." The Crow tickled with this very civil language, nestled and wriggled about, and hardly knew where she was; but thinking the Fox a little doubtful as to the particular of her voice, and having a mind to set him right in that matter, began to sing, and, in the same instant let the cheese drop out of her mouth. This being what the Fox wanted, he chopped it up in a moment: and trotted away, laughing to himself at the easy credulity of the Crow.

THE APPLICATION.

It is an old saying, that when Pride is on the Saddle, Shame is on the Crupper. Flattery gains favour with fools; and they indeed are fools, who, to please their empty vanity give up a real good, for a few sweet words.

FAB. VIII.—THE PROUD FROG.



Contend not with thy Betters.

An Ox, grazing in a meadow, chanced to set his foot among a parcel of young Frogs, and trod one of them to death. The rest informed their mother when she came home, what had happened; telling her, that the beast which did it, was the hugest creature that they ever saw in their lives. "What! was it so big?" says the old Frog, swelling and blowing up her speckled belly to a great degree. "Oh! bigger by a vast deal;" say they. "And so big?" says she, straining herself yet more, "Indeed, mamma," said they, "if you were to burst yourself, you would never be so big," She strove yet again, and burst herself indeed.

THE APPLICATION.

He that enters into a competition of expense and shew with his superiors in rank or fortune, will surely suffer; such a contest is ridiculous, as it arises from a foolish vanity; and is always ruinous, for it is not upon even terms. Remember, that you can't make a silk purse of a Sow's ear.

FAB. IX.—THE FOX AND THE STORK.



Fair Play is bonnie Play.

THE Fox invited the Stork to dinner; and being disposed to divert himself at the expense of his guest, provided nothing for the entertainment, but a soup, in a wide shallow dish. This himself could lap up with a great deal of ease: but the Stork, who could but just dip in the point of his bill, was not a bit the better all the while: However, in a few days after, he returned

the compliment, and invited the Fox; but suffered nothing to be brought to the table but some mince meat, in a glass jar; the neck of which was so deep and so narrow, that though the Stork, with his long bill made a shift to fill his belly, all that the Fox, who was very hungry, could do, was to lick the brims, as the Stork slobbered them with his eating. Reynard was heartily vexed at first, but when he came to take his leave, owned ingenuously, that he had been used as he deserved; and that he had no reason to take any treatment ill, of which he himself had set the example.

THE APPLICATION.

He that breaks a jest upon another, should not complain if one be played off against himself; for he who begins, gives the other a right to return joke for joke, and ought not to take it ill; turn about is fair play.



FAB. X.—THE EAGLE AND THE FOX.



Outrages seldom escape Punishment.

An Eagle, that had young ones, looking out for something to feed them with, happened to spy a Fox's cub, that lay basking itself abroad in the sun; she made a stoop therefore, and trussed it immediately; but before she carried it quite off, the old Fox, coming home, implored her with tears in her eyes, to spare her cub, and pity the distress of a poor fond mother, who thought no affliction so great as that of losing her child. The Eagle, whose nest was up in a high tree, thought herself secure enough from all projects of revenge, and so bore away the cub to her young ones,

without shewing any regard to the supplications of the Fox. But that subtle creature, highly incensed at this outrageous barbarity, ran to a fire where some country people had been roasting a kid in the open fields, and catching up a fire-brand in her mouth, made towards the tree where the Eagle's nest was, with a resolution of revenge. She had scarcely ascended the first branches, when the Eagle, terrified at the approaching ruin of herself and family, begged of the Fox to desist, and with much submission, returned her the cub again safe and sound.

THE APPLICATION.

Sooner or later punishment overtakes the guilty; perhaps when, like the Eagle in the fable, they think themselves quite safe, at that very moment they are discovered and brought to shame.



FAB. XI.—THE FROGS AND THE FIGHTING BULLS.



When the Town is on fire, look after your own House.

A FROG, one day, peeping out of the lake, and looking about him, saw two Bulls fighting at some distance off in the meadow, and calling to one of his acquaintance, "Look," says he, "what dreadful work is yonder! Dear sirs, what will become of us!" "Why, pray thee," says the other, "do not frighten yourself so about nothing; how can their quarrels affect us? They are of a different kind and way of living, and are, at present, only contending which shall be master of the herd." "That is true," replied the first, "their quality and station in life are, to

all appearance, different enough from ours, but as one of them will certainly get the better, he that is worsted, being beat out of the meadow, will take refuge here in the marshes, and may possibly tread out the guts of some of us: so you see, we are more nearly concerned in this dispute of theirs, than at first you were aware of."

THE APPLICATION.

It is true, that the quarrels of the great sometimes affect the poor; but the wisest course is to keep aloof, for

Those who in quarrels interpose,
Must often wipe a bloody nose.

FAB. XII.—THE MAN AND HIS TWO WIVES.



A Man's best fortune, or his worst, is a Wife.

A MAN, in times when more than one wife was allowed, had two helpmates, one

of whom, like himself, had seen her best days, and was just as it were entering upon the declivity of life; but this, (being an artful woman) she entirely concealed by her dress; by which, and some other elegant qualities, she made a shift sometimes to engage her husband's heart. The other was a beautiful young creature of seventeen, whose charms, as yet in the height of bloom, and secure of their own power, had no occasion to call any artifice to their assistance. She made the good man as happy as he was capable of being, but was not, it seems, completely so herself; the gray hairs mixed among the black, upon her husband's head, gave her some uneasiness, by proclaiming the great disparity of their years; wherefore, under colour of settling and combing his head, she would every now and then twitch the silver hairs with her nippers, that, however matters were, he might still have as few visible signs of advanced age as possible: The Dame, whose years were nearer to an equallty with his own, esteemed those gray locks as the honours

of his head, and could have wished they had all been such: she thought it gave him a venerable look; at least, that it made her appear something younger than he: so that every time the honest man's head fell into her hands, she took as much pains to root out the black hairs, as the other had done to demolish the gray. Thus neither of them knew of the others design; but each continuing their project with repeated industry, the poor man, who thought their desire to oblige put them upon this extraordinary officiousness in dressing his head, found himself, in a short time without any hair at all.

THE APPLICATION.

Though it is said, that a man must ask his wife's leave to thrive, still every one ought to be master of his own conduct; and he who yields on all occasions to a silly companion deserves to meet with contempt. As two of a trade can hardly agree, we see the folly of those nations that allow of more wives than one, and the wisdom of our laws forbidding such a practice.

FAB. XIII —THE STAG IN THE OX-STALL



No one ought to look with another Man's Eyes.

A STAG, roused out of his thick covert in the midst of the forest, and driven hard by the hounds, made towards a farm house, and seeing the door of an Ox-stall open, entered therein, and hid himself under a heap of straw. One of the Oxen, turning his head about, asked him what he meant by venturing himself in such a place as that was, where he was sure to meet with his doom? "Ah!" says the Stag, "if you will be so good as to favour me with your concealment, I hope I shall do well enough; I intend to make off again the first opportunity." Well, he staid there till towards night; in came the stable-boy, with a bundle of fodder, and never saw him. In short,

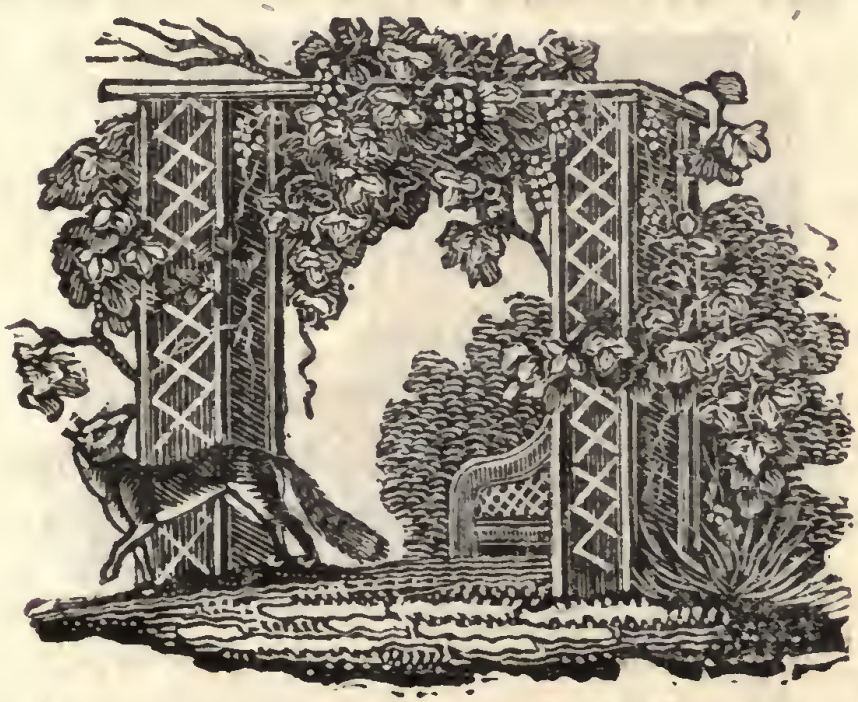
all the servants of the farm came and went, and not a soul of them smelt any thing of the matter. Nay, the bailiff himself came, according to form, and looked in, but walked away no wiser than the rest. Upon this, the Stag, ready to jump out of his skin with joy, began to return thanks to the good-natured Oxen, protesting that they were the most obliging people he had ever met with in his life. After he had done his compliments, one of them answered him gravely: "Indeed, we desire nothing more than to have it in our power to contribute to your escape; but, there is a certain person, you little think of, who has a hundred eyes; if he should happen to come, I would not give this straw for your life." In the interim, home comes the master himself, from a neighbour's, where he had been invited to dinner; and because he had observed the cattle to look but scurvily of late, he went up to the rack, and asked, why they did not give them more fodder? then casting his eyes downward, Hey day! says he, why so sparing of your litter? pray scatter a little more here. And these cobwebs—

But I have spoken so often, that unless I do it myself—Thus as he went on, prying into every thing, he chanced to look where the Stag's horns lay sticking out of the straw; upon which he raised a hue and-cry, called all his people about him, killed the poor Stag, and made a prize of him.

THE APPLICATION.

He that tells another to do his business, does not wish that it should be done. What we desire to have well done, we ought to do ourselves, for he who trusts to borrowed Boughs, will have his land lie fallow.

FAB. XIV.—THE FOX AND THE GRAPES.



If a knave cannot otherwise injure you, he wil give you a bad name.

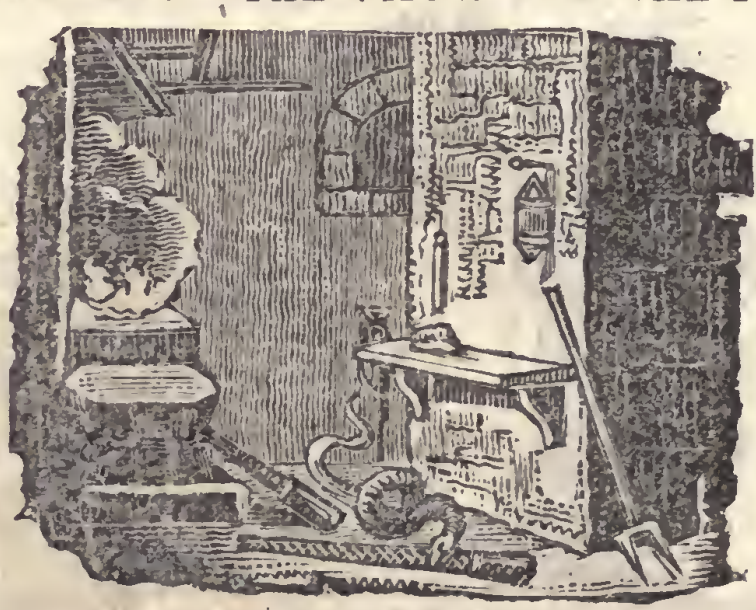
A Fox, very hungry, chanced to come

into a vineyard, where there hung branches of charming ripe Grapes; but nailed up to a trellis so high, that he leaped till he quite tired himself, without being able to reach one of them. At last, "Let who will take them! they are but green and sour; so I'll e'en let them alone."

THE APPLICATION.

It is strange, though unfortunately very common, that men, when they fail in an attempt to gain any object, endeavour to give a bad character to what they so much desire. This ought to make us very careful in receiving reports which are injurious to any one.

FAB. XV.—THE VIPER AND THE FILE.



Of all the fools the greatest is he,
That attempts to do what cannot be.

A VIPER entering a smith's shop, looked up and down for something to eat; and

seeing a File, fell to gnawing it as greedily as could be. The File told him very gruffly, that he had best be quiet and let him alone; for he could get very little by nibbling at one, who, upon occasion, could bite iron and steel.

THE APPLICATION.

Attempt not impossibilities, is a good rule and a very obvious one; yet many persons thoughtlessly engage in pursuits, and persevere in them to their life's end, which, on a slight enquiry, would have appeared impossible.

FAB. XVI.—THE FOX AND THE GOAT.



If thou dealest with a Fox, think of his Tricks.

A Fox having tumbled, by chance, into a well, had been casting about a long

while, to no purpose, how he should get out again; when, at last, a Goat came to the place, and wanting to drink, asked Reynard, whether the water was good? "Good!" says he, "ay, so sweet, that I am afraid I have surfeited myself, I have drunk so abundantly." The Goat upon this, without any more ado, leapt in; and the Fox, taking the advantage of his horns, by the assistance of them, as nimbly leapt out, leaving the poor Goat at the bottom of the well, to shift for himself.

THE APPLICATION.

The man who takes the advice of a stranger,
Can't complain if it bring him into danger.



FAB. XVII.—THE COUNTRYMAN AND THE SNAKE.



Protect an ill man and you'll live to repent it.

A VILLAGER, in a frosty snowy winter, found a Snake under a hedge, almost dead with cold: he could not help having compassion for the poor creature, so brought it home, and laid it upon the hearth near the fire; but it had not lain there long, before (being revived by the heat) it began to erect itself, and fly at his wife and children, filling the whole cottage with dreadful hissings. The countryman hearing an outcry, and perceiving what the matter was, catched up a pitch-fork, and soon dispatched him; upbraiding him at the same time in these words: "Is

this, vile wretch! the reward you make to him that saved your life? Die as you deserve; but a single death is too good for you."

THE APPLICATION.

A favour ill-disposed is profusion; and the first return you may expect from a knave, whom you have saved from the Gallows, is, that he will pick your pocket.

FAB. XVIII.—THE MOUNTAINS IN LABOUR.



Great talkers and little doers.

The mountains were said to be in Labour, and uttered most dreadful groans. People came together, far and near, to see what birth would be produced; and after they had waited a considerable time in expectation, out crept a mouse!

THE APPLICATION.

Never rely upon the boasting professions of a man whom you have not tried, for if you do, the least evil to be expected is disappointment. We often see how true is the proverb "great cry and little wool."

FAB. XIX.—THE OLD HOUND.



Forget not past Services.

An old hound, who had been an excellent good one in his time, and had given his master great sport and satisfaction in many a chase, at last, by the effect of years, became feeble and unserviceable. However, being in the field, one day, when the Stag was almost run down, he happened to be the first that came in with

him, and seized him by one of his haunches; but his decayed and broken teeth not being able to keep their hold, the deer escaped, and threw him quite out. Upon which, his master, being in a great passion, and going to strike him, the honest old creature is said to have barked out this apology: "Ah! do not strike your poor old servant; it is not my heart and inclination, but my strength and speed that fail me. If what I now am displease you, pray don't forget what I have been."

THE APPLICATION.

It is a sad thing to be treated unkindly by the man you have served; therefore, you ought to be beforehand with ingratitude, by saving, in your youth, what you can, towards the support of your old age.

FAB. XX.—THE HARES AND THE FROGS.



One coward makes another brave.

Upon a great storm of wind that blew among the trees and bushes, and made a rustling with the leaves, the Hares in a certain park (where there happened to be plenty of them) were so terribly frightened, that they ran like mad all over the place, resolving to seek out some retreat of more security, or to end their unhappy days, by doing violence to themselves. With this resolution, they found an outlet, where a pale had been broken down, and, bolting forth upon an adjoining common, had not run far, before their course was stopped by a gentle brook, which glided across the way they intended to take. This was so grievous a disappointment

that they were not able to bear it; and they determined rather to throw themselves headlong into the water, let what would come of it, than lead a life so full of dangers and crosses. But upon their coming to the brink of the river, a parcel of frogs, which were sitting there, frightened at their approach, leapt into the stream, in great confusion, and dived to the very bottom for fear; which a cunning old puss observing, called to the rest and said, "Hold! have a care what you do: here are creatures I perceive, which have their fears as well as we; dont then let us fancy ourselves the most miserable of any upon earth, but rather, by their example, learn to bear patiently those inconveniences which our nature has thrown upon us."

THE APPLICATION.

He that yields to the appearance of danger, almost deserves to meet with it in reality. If you are alarmed for yourself, or discontented with your lot, see first if you have a right to complain, when you are no worse off than your neighbour.

FAB. XXI.—THE LION AND THE MOUSE.



A Friend in need,
A Friend indeed.

A LION faint with heat, and weary with hunting, lay down to take his repose under the spreading boughs of a thick shady oak. It happened that, whilst he slept, a company of scrambling mice ran over his back, and waked him; upon which, starting up, he clapped his paw upon one of them, and was just joing to put it to death, when the little suppliant implored his mercy in a very moving manner, begging him not to stain his noble character, with the blood of so despicable and small a beast. The Lion, considering the matter, thought proper to do as he was desired, and im-

mediately released his little trembling prisoner. Not long after, traversing the forest, in pursuit of his prey, he chanced to run into the toils of the hunters; from whence, not able to disengage himself, he set up a most hideous and loud roar. The Mouse, hearing the voice, and knowing it to be the Lion's, immediately repaired to the place, and bid him fear nothing, for that he was his friend. Then straight he fell to work, and with his little sharp teeth gnawing asunder the knots and fastenings of the toils, set the royal brute at liberty.

THE APPLICATION.

We never know the value of a friend until we want him. There is no one so poor, as not to be able to repay a kindness, and every body admits that one good turn deserves another; hence we ought to be kind to our neighbour, for we don't know the moment we shall require his help.



FAB. XXII.—THE FATAL MARRIAGE.



He that hews above his height, will have chips in his Eyes.

THE Lion aforesaid, touched with the grateful procedure of the Mouse, and resolving not to be outdone in generosity by any wild beast whatever, desired his little deliverer to name his own terms, for that he might depend upon his complying with any proposal he should make. The Mouse, fired with ambition at this gracious offer, did not so much consider what was proper for him to ask, as what was in the power of his prince to grant; and so, presumptuously demanded his princely daughter, the young Lioness, in marriage. The Lion

consented; but, when he would have given the royal virgin into his possession, she, like a giddy thing as she was, not minding how she walked, by chance set her paw upon her spouse, who was coming to meet her, and crushed her little dear to pieces.

THE APPLICATION.

He that climbs too high, is in great danger of a fall. It is reasonable to desire to better our condition, but if we aim too high, we are sure to miss the mark.

FAB. XXIII.—THE WOOD AND THE CLOWN.



If you put weapons into the hands of a stranger,
You are in great risk of coming into danger.

A Country fellow came one day into the wood and looked about him with some

concern; upon which, the Trees, with a curiosity natural to some other creatures, asked him what he wanted. He replied, that he only wanted a piece of wood to make a handle to his hatchet. Since that was all, it was voted unanimously, that he should have a piece of good, sound, tough ash. But he had no sooner received and fitted it for the purpose, than he began to lay about him unmercifully, and to hack and to hew without distinction, felling the noblest trees in all the forest. The Oak is said to have spoken thus to the Beech, "we must take it for our pains."

THE APPLICATION.

He that gives a sword to an enemy, has no reason to complain if it be turned against himself; for though it be our duty to forgive injuries, it is foolish to give to any one the power of doing them. Many a man gives a stick to break his own head.



FAB. XXIV.—THE HORSE AND THE STAG.



Revenge often punishes itself.

THE Stag with his sharp horns, got the better of the Horse, and drove him clear out of the pasture where they used to feed together. So the latter craved the assistance of man: and, in order to receive the benefit of it, he suffered him to put a bridle into his mouth, and a saddle upon his back. By this way of proceeding, he entirely defeated his enemy; but was mightily disappointed, when, upon returning thanks and desiring to be dismissed, he received this answer: "No, I never before

knew how useful a drudge you were; now I have found what you are good for, you may depend upon it, I will keep you to it."

THE APPLICATION.

Revenge is the Devil's own act and deed, and though sharp-sighted against its object, it is blind to every thing besides; many a blow recoils on him that strikes.

FAB. XXV.—THE COUNTRY MOUSE AND THE CITY MOUSE.



Better a little fire to warm us,
Than a great one to harm us.

An honest, plain, sensible country Mouse, is said to have entertained at his

hole one day a fine Mouse of the town. Having formerly been playfellows together, they were old acquaintances, which served as an apology for the visit. However, as master of the house, he thought himself obliged to do the honours of it, in all respects, and to make as great a stranger of his guest as he possibly could. In order to this, he set before him, a reserve of delicate gray pease and bacon, a dish of fine oatmeal, some parings of new cheese: and, to crown all with a desert, a remnant of a charming mellow apple. In good manners, he forbore to eat any himself, lest the stranger should not have enough; but that he might seem to bear the other company, he sat and nibbled a piece of wheaten straw very busily. At last, says the spark of the town, "Old Crony, give me leave to be a little free with you; How can you bear to live in this nasty, dirty, melancholy hole here, with nothing but woods and meadows, and mountains and rivulets about you? Do you not prefer the conversation of the world to the chirping of birds; and the splendour of a court to

the rude aspect of an uncultivated desert? Come, take my word for it, you will find a change for the better. Never stand considering, but away this moment. Remember we are not immortal, and therefore we have no time to lose. Make sure of to-day, and spend it as agreeably as you can; you know not what may happen to-morrow." In short, these and such like arguments prevailed, and his country acquaintance was resolved to go to town that night. So they both set out upon their journey together, proposing to sneak in after the close of the evening. They did so, and about midnight made their entry into a certain great house, where there had been an extraordinary entertainment the day before, and several tit bits, which some of the servants had purloined, were hid under the seat of a window. The country guest was immediately placed in the midst of a rich Persian carpet, and now it was the courtiers turn to entertain, who indeed acquitted himself in that capacity with the utmost readiness and address, changing the courses as elegantly, and tasting every

thing at first, as judiciously as any clerk of a kitchen. The other sat and enjoyed himself like a delighted epicure, tickled to the last degree with this new turn in his affairs; when on a sudden, a noise of somebody opening the door, made them start from their seats, and scuttle in confusion about the dining room. Our country friend, in particular, was ready to die with fear at the barking of a huge mastiff or two, which opened their throats just at the same time, and made the whole house echo. At last recovering himself, "Well," says he, "if this be your town life, much good may it do you: Give me my poor quiet hole again, with my homely but comfortable gray pease.

THE APPLICATION.

A little, with safety and content, is worth more than abundance with danger; every station has its comforts; wealth will not banish care.



FAB. XXVI.—THE MOUSE AND THE WEASEL.



Moderation is a Golden Rule.

A little, starved, thin-gutted rogue of a Mouse, had, with much pushing and application, made his way through a small hole in a corn-basket, where he stuffed and crammed so plentifully, that when he would have retired the way he came, he found himself too plump, with all his endeavours, to accomplish it. A Weasel, who stood at some distance, and had been diverting himself with beholding the vain efforts of the little fat thing, called to him and said, "Hark ye, honest friend, if you have a mind to make your escape, there is but one way for it: contrive to grow as

poor and as lean as you were when you entered, and then, perhaps, you may get off."

THE APPLICATION.

Luxury has ruined many men; and if you indulge in any thing without moderation, you will surely suffer for it—Remember that enough is as good as a feast.

FAB. XXVII.—THE BELLY AND THE MEMBERS.



No clock can go without Wheels.

In former days, when the belly and the other parts of the body enjoyed the faculty of speech, and had separate views and designs of their own; each part, it seems, in particular for himself, and in the name of the whole, took exception

at the conduct of the Belly, and was resolved to grant him supplies no longer. They said they thought it very hard, that he should lead an idle good-for-nothing life, spending and squandering away upon his own ungodly guts, all the fruits of their labour, and that, in short, they were resolved for the future to strike off his allowance, and let him shift for himself as well as he could. The hands protested they would not lift up a finger to keep him from starving; and the mouth wished he might never speak again, if he took in the least bit of nourishment for him so long as he lived; and, said the teeth, may we be rotten, if ever we chew a morsel for him for the future. This solemn league and covenant was kept as long as any thing of the kind can be kept, which was, until each of the rebel members pined away to the skin and bone, and could hold out no longer. Then they found, there was no doing without the Belly, and that, as idle and insignificant as he seemed, he contributed as much to the maintenance and welfare of all the other parts, as they did to his.

THE APPLICATION.

Fools consider the law to be oppressive, and will not see, that the exertions of every class in society, are necessary to the support and happiness of the whole; but let us recollect that although the Pilot never handles a rope himself, yet without him, the ship is lost and the crew perish.

FAB. XXVIII.—THE LARK AND THE YOUNG ONES.



Every one does his own business best.

A LARK, who had Young Ones in a field of corn which was almost ripe, was under some fear lest the reapers should come to reap it, before her young brood were fledged, and able to remove from the place; wherefore, upon flying abroad to look for food, she left this charge with them, that they should observe what they heard talked of in her absence, and tell

her of it when she came back again. When she was gone, they heard the owner of the corn call to his son: "Well," says he, "I think this corn is ripe enough; I would have you go early to-morrow, and desire our friends and neighbours to come and help us to reap it." When the old Lark came home, the young ones fell a quivering and chirping round her, and told her what had happened, begging of her to move them as fast as she could. The mother bid them be easy; "for," says she, "if the owner depends upon friends and neighbours, I am pretty sure the corn will not be reaped to-morrow." Next day she went out again upon the same occasion, and left the same orders with them as before. The owner came and stayed, expecting those he had sent to; but the sun grew hot and nothing was done, for not a soul came to help him. Then says he to his son, "I perceive these friends of ours are not to be depended upon, so that you must even go to your uncles and cousins, and tell them I desire they would be here betimes to-morrow morning to help us to reap." Well, this the young ones, in a great fright, re-

ported also to their mother. "If that be all," says she, "do not be frightened, children, for kindred and relations do not use to be so very forward to serve one another; but take particular notice what you hear said the next time, and be sure you let me know it." She went abroad the next day as usual; and the owner finding his relations as slack as the rest of his neighbours, said to his son, "Hark-ye, George, do you get a couple of good sickles ready against to-morrow morning, and we will even reap the corn ourselves." When the young ones told their mother this, "Then," says she, "we must be gone, indeed; for when a man undertakes to do his business himself, it is not so likely he will be disappointed." So she removed her young ones immediately, and the corn was reaped the next day, by the good man and his son.

THE APPLICATION.

Don't leave to others what you can do for yourself; for, as the proverb has it,

Our neighbour's care
Hangs by a hair.

FAB. XXIX.—THE TORTOISE AND THE EAGLE.



Never promise what you cannot perform.

The Tortoise, weary of his condition, by which he was confined to keep upon the ground, and being ambitious to have a prospect, and look about him, gave out, that if any bird would take him up into the air, and shew him the world, he would reward him with the discovery of many precious stones, which he knew were hidden in a certain place of the earth; The Eagle undertook to do as he desired; and when he had performed his commission, demanded the reward: but finding the Tortoise could not make good his

words, he struck his talons into the softer parts of his body, and made him a sacrifice to his revenge.

THE APPLICATION.

When a man breaks his promise, he must abide by the consequences.

FAB. XXX.—THE WIND AND THE SUN.



A soft Tongue breaketh the Bone.

A dispute once arose betwixt the North-wind and the Sun, about the superiority of their power; and they agreed to try their strength upon a traveller, which should be able to get his cloak off first. The North-wind began, and blew a very

cold blast, accompanied with a sharp driving shower. But this, and whatever else he could do, instead of making the man quit his cloak, obliged him to gird it about his body, as close as possible. Next came the Sun; who, breaking out from a thick watery cloud, drove away the cold vapours from the sky, and darted his warm sultry beams upon the head of the poor weather beaten traveller. The man growing faint with the heat, and unable to endure it any longer, first throws off his heavy cloak, and then flies for protection, to the shade of a neighbouring grove.

THE APPLICATION.

Persuasion often succeeds better than force, for violence only provokes opposition. Children are best managed by gentleness combined with firmness; harsh treatment hardens their nature, and disposes them to resist their parents.



FAB. XXXI.—THE ASS IN THE LION'S SKIN.



An Ass is but an Ass, though laden with Gold.

An Ass, finding the skin of a Lion, put it on; and going into the woods and pastures, threw all the flocks and herds into a terrible consternation. At last, meeting his owner, he would have frightened him also; but the good man seeing his long ears stick out, presently knew him, and with a good cudgel made him sensible, that notwithstanding his being dressed in a Lion's skin, he was really no more than an Ass.

THE APPLICATION.

Vain pretenders are sure to meet with contempt at least, perhaps with stripes.

In wit and war, the Bully race,
Contribute to their own disgrace.

FAB. XXXII.—THE FROG AND THE FOX.



Physician, cure thyself.

A Frog, leaping out of the lake, and taking the advantage of a rising ground, made proclamation to all the beasts of the forest, that he was an able physician, and, for curing all manner of distempers, would turn his back to no person living. This discourse, uttered in a parcel of hard, cramp words, which nobody understood, made the beasts admire his learning, and give credit to every thing he said: At last, the Fox, who was present, with indignation asked him, how he could have the impudence, with those thin lantern jaws, that meagre, pale phiz, and blotched spot-

ted body, to set up for one who was able to cure the infirmities of others?

THE APPLICATION.

Some men are so absurd as to think that their bare word will be taken for qualifications, which it is clear they do not possess. We laugh at the gold-maker (as he calls himself) who travels about in rags, and offers to make gold for hire.

FAB. XXXIII.—THE TRAVELLERS & THE BEAR.



Need tries Friendship.

Two men being to travel through a forest together, mutually promised to stand by each other, in any danger they should meet upon the way. They had not gone far, before a Bear came rushing upon them out of a thicket; upon which, one, being a

light, nimble fellow, got up into a tree; the other falling flat upon his face, and holding his breath, lay still, while the Bear came up and smelled him; but that creature, supposing him to be a dead carcase, went back again into the wood, without doing him the least harm. When all was over, the spark who had climbed the tree came down to his companion, and, with a pleasant smile, asked him what the Bear had said to him; "for," says he, "I took notice that he clapped his mouth very close to your ear," "Why" replies the other, "he charged me to take care for the future, not to put any confidence in such cowardly rascals as you are."

THE APPLICATION.

He who wishes to be treated as a friend, should act as a friend; we cannot expect, that the man whom we have deserted in danger, will stand by us when we want his aid.

FAB. XXXIV.—THE BALD KNIGHT.



A good Jest bites like a Lamb.

A certain Knight growing old, his hairs fell off, and he became bald; to hide which imperfection, he wore a periwig. But as he was riding out with some others a hunting, a sudden gust of wind blew off the periwig, and exposed his bald pate. The company could not forbear laughing at the accident: and he himself laughed as loud as any body, saying, How was it to be expected that I should keep strange hair upon my head, when my own would not stay there?

THE APPLICATION.

A pleasant word turns ridicule aside, and many a sore has been healed by kind language. Good-humour has every one's vote.

FAB. XXXV.—THE TWO POTS.



A Man's Companions often bring him into danger.

An earthen pot and one of brass, standing together upon the river's brink, were both carried away by the flowing of the tide. The earthen pot showed some uneasiness, as fearing he should be broken; but his companion of brass bid him be under no apprehensions, for that he would take care of him. "O," replies the other, "keep as far off as ever you can, I entreat you; it is you I am most afraid of: For whether the stream dashes you against me, or me against you, I am sure to be the sufferer; and therefore I beg of you, do not let us come near one another.

THE APPLICATION.

Defend me from my friends says the proverb, and I will myself take care of my enemies; what may be good for one, may destroy another, and one man's meat is often another man's poison; a man ought, therefore, to be careful of his company, for, like the brass Pot, they may prove too hard for him.

FAB. XXXVI.—THE PEACOCK AND THE CRANE.



Many a good Man is under a plain Coat.

The Peacock and the Crane, by chance met together, in the same place: The Peacock erecting his tail, displayed his gaudy plumes, and looked with contempt upon the Crane, as some mean ordinary person. The Crane resolving to mortify his insolence, took occasion to say, that

Peacocks were very fine birds indeed, if fine feathers could make them so; but that he thought it a much nobler thing to be able to rise above the clouds, than to strut about upon the ground, and be gazed at by children.

THE APPLICATION.

Fine feathers, they say, make fine birds. Nevertheless, under a splendid outside, is often found a worthless fellow. We ought not to trust to appearances, for they are often deceitful.

FAB. XXXVII.—THE OAK AND THE REED.



By yielding an Inch, you may gain an Ell.

An Oak, which hung over the bank of a river, was blown down by a violent storm

of wind; and as it was carried along by the stream, some of its boughs brushed against a Reed, which grew near the shore. This struck the Oak with a thought of admiration, and he could not forbear asking the Reed how he came to stand so secure and unhurt in a tempest, which had been furious enough to tear an Oak up by the roots? "Why," says the Reed, "I secure myself by putting on a behaviour quite contrary to what you do; instead of being stubborn and stiff, and confiding in my strength, I yield and bend to the blast, and let it go over me, knowing how vain and fruitless it would be to resist.

THE APPLICATION.

Patience is a sure remedy for many ills; with patience and perseverance, a man may avoid many misfortunes; for fair and softly goes far in a day; it is absurd however to suppose, that every thing in this life will turn out as we desire.



FAB. XXXVIII.—THE FOX AND THE TIGER.



Rashness brings us into Harm's way.

A skilful archer coming into the woods, directed his arrows so successfully, that he slew many wild beasts, and pursued several others. This put the whole savage kind into a fearful consternation, and made them fly to the most retired thickets for refuge. At last, the Tiger resumed courage, and bidding them not be afraid, said, that he alone would engage the enemy; telling them, they might depend upon his valour and strength to revenge their wrongs. In the midst of these threats, while he was lashing himself with his tail, and tearing up the ground for anger, an

arrow pierced his ribs, and hung by its barbed point in his side. He set up a hideous and loud roar, occasioned by the anguish which he felt, and endeavoured to draw out the painful dart with his teeth, when the Fox approaching him, enquired with an air of surprise, who it was that could have strength and courage enough to wound so mighty and valorous a beast! "Ah!" says the Tiger, "I was mistaken in my reckoning: it was that invincible man yonder."

THE APPLICATION.

He who boasts of strength which he does not possess, and exposes himself unnecessarily to danger, may reasonably expect punishment both for his vanity and rashness.



FAB. XXXIX.—THE CROW AND THE PITCHER.



If I can't by might,
I'll do't by sleight.

A Crow, ready to die with thirst, flew with joy to a Pitcher, which he beheld at some distance. When he came, he found water in it indeed, but so near the bottom, that with all his stooping and straining, he was not able to reach it: then he endeavoured to overturn the Pitcher, that, so, at least he might be able to get a little of it; but his strength was not sufficient for this: at last, seeing some pebbles lie near the place, he cast them, one by one into the Pitcher; and thus

by degrees, raised the water up to the very brim, and satisfied his thirst.

THE APPLICATION.

He's little better than a fool, who can't do any thing but by mere strength. True wisdom will try a new course, when another has failed, and will not be discouraged on a first attempt—Perseverance is the sure road to success.

FAB. XL.—THE LION AND THE FORESTER.



One Story is good, until another is told.

The Forester meeting with a Lion, one day, they discoursed together for a while without differing much in opinion. At last, a dispute happening to arise about the point of superiority between a man and a Lion: and the man wanting a bet-

ter argument, shewed the Lion a marble monument, on which was placed the statue of a man striding over a vanquished Lion. "If this," says the Lion, "is all you have to say for it, let us be the carvers, and we will make the Lion striding over the man."

THE APPLICATION.

Some people are little to be credited when speaking of themselves, or of what belongs to them; their geese are all swans, as they would have us think; but when the truth comes to be told, they are exposed.

FAB. XLI.—THE FARMER AND THE CARTER.



If you will obtain, you must attempt.
A thing begun is half done..

As a clownish fellow was driving his cart along a deep miry lane, the wheels stuck so fast in the clay, that the horses

could not draw them out: Upon this he fell a-bawling to a Farmer, who was at work in an adjoining field, to come and help him. The Farmer looking over the hedge, bid him not lie there, like an idle rascal as he was, but get up and whip his horses stoutly, and clap his shoulder to the wheel; adding that this was the only way for him to obtain his assistance.

THE APPLICATION.

No one helps a person willingly, who does not help himself; when we ask for assistance, we ought to shew that we desire it, by working for ourselves. Solomon says, " The soul of the sluggard desireth, and hath nothing."



FAB. XLII.—THE MAN AND HIS GOOSE.



Covetousness bursts the bag.

A certain man had a Goose, which laid him a golden egg every day: but not contented with this, which rather increased than abated his avarice, he was resolved to kill the Goose and cut up her belly, so that he might come at the inexhaustible treasure which he fancied she had within her. He did so, and to his great sorrow and disappointment found nothing.

THE APPLICATION.

Avarice is often its own punishment, for he that is continually looking for more, is apt to lose sight of what he has. The Poet truly says, that

> Avarice, whatever shape it bears,
> Must still be coupled with its cares.

FAB. XLIII.—THE WANTON CALF.



The Biter will be bitten.

A CALF full of play and wantonness, seeing an ox ploughing, could not forbear insulting him. "What a poor sorry drudge art thou," says he, "to bear that heavy yoke upon your neck, and go all day drawing a plough at your tail, to turn up the ground for your master; but you are a wretched dull slave and know no better, or else you would not do it. See what a happy life I lead; I go just where I please; sometimes I lie down under the cool shade; sometimes frisk about in the open sunshine; and when I please, slake my thirst in the clear sweet brook; but you, if you

were to perish, have not so much as a little dirty water to refresh you." The Ox, not at all moved by what was said, went quietly and calmly on with his work, and in the evening, was unyoked and turned loose. Soon after which, he saw the calf taken out of the field, and delivered into the hands of a butcher, who immediately ed him to the shambles and prepared to kill him. The fatal knife was just going to be applied to his throat, when the Ox drew near, and whispered him to this purpose: "Behold the end of your insolence and arrogance! it was for this only you were suffered to live at all; and pray now, friend, whose condition is best, your's or mine?"

THE APPLICATION.

How cruel is the man who, not only, does not pity but jests at the misfortunes of his neighbour; but,

Too late the forward youth shall find,
That jokes are sometimes paid in kind.



FAB. XLIV.—THE LEOPARD AND THE FOX.



A fair face and a foul heart often go together.

THE Leopard, one day, took it into his head to value himself upon the great variety and beauty of his spots; and truly he saw no reason, why even the lion should take place of him, since he could not shew so beautiful a skin. As for the rest of the wild beasts of the forest, he treated them all, without distinction, in the most haughty disdainful manner. But the Fox being among them, went up to him with a great deal of spirit and resolution, and told him, that he was mistaken in the value he was pleased to set upon himself; since people of judgment were not used to form their opinion of merit from an outside appearance, but by considering the

good qualities and endowments, with which the mind was stored within.

THE APPLICATION.

Let no one be proud of a handsome face; a single day's sickness may spoil it; the fairest flowers wither soonest. Solomon compares a beautiful woman without discretion, to a jewel of gold in a swine's snout.

FAB. XLV.—THE CAT AND THE FOX.



'Tis bad to have too many Irons in the fire.

As the Cat and the Fox were talking politics together, on a time, in the middle of a forest, Reynard said, let things turn out ever so bad, he had a thousand tricks

for them yet, before they should hurt him. —"But pray," says he, "Mrs. Puss, suppose there should be an invasion, what course do you design to take?" "Nay," says the Cat, "I have but one shift for it, and if that wont do, I am undone." "I am sorry for you," replies Reynard, "with all my heart, and would gladly furnish you with one or two of mine; but indeed neighbour, as times go, it is not good to trust; we must even be every one for himself, as the saying is, and so your humble servant." These words were scarcely out of his mouth, when they were alarmed by a pack of hounds that came upon them in full cry. The Cat, by the help of her single shift, ran up a tree, and sat securely among the top branches; from whence she beheld Reynard, who had not been able to get out of sight, overtaken with his thousand tricks, and torn in as many pieces, by the dogs which had surrounded him.

THE APPLICATION.

Though it be good to have, at least, two strings to one's bow, more might be an inconvenience. At all events, if we should have more than are quite necessary, one ought always be in readiness.

FAB. XLVI.—THE PARTRIDGE & THE COCKS.



Unkind Relations make worse Friends.

A CERTAIN man, having taken a Partridge, plucked some of the feathers out of its wings, and turned it into a little yard, where he kept game Cocks. The Cocks, for a while, made the poor bird lead a sad life, continually pecking and driving it away from the meat. This treatment was taken the more unkindly, because offered to a stranger; and the Partridge could not but conclude them the most inhospitable, uncivil people he had ever met with. But, at last, observing how frequently they quarrelled and fought with each other, he comforted himself with this reflection: That it was no wonder they were so cruel to him, since there was so

much bickering and animosity amongst themselves.

THE APPLICATION.

We ought not to expect friendship from such as feel it not for their own kindred; he who does so, will surely be disappointed.

FAB. XLVII.—THE FOX WITHOUT A TAIL.



He that suffers would make others suffer.

A Fox, being caught in a steel-trap by his tail, was glad to compound for his escape, with the loss of it, but, upon coming abroad into the world, he began to be so sensible of the disgrace such a defect

would bring upon him, that he almost wished he had died rather than have left it behind him. However, to make the best of a bad matter, he formed a project in his head, to call an assembly of all the rest of the Foxes, and propose it for their imitation, as a fashion that would be very agreeable and becoming. He did so; and made a long harangue upon the unprofitableness of tails in general, and endeavoured chiefly to shew the awkwardness and inconvenience of a Fox's tail in particular; adding, that it would be both more graceful, and more expeditious, to be altogether without them; and that for his part, what he had only imagined and conjectured before, he now found by experience; for that he never enjoyed himself so well, nor found himself so easy, as he had done since he cut off his tail. He said no more, but looked about him with a brisk air, to see what proselytes he had gained; when a sly old thief in the company, who understood trap, answered him, with a leer, "I believe you may have found a conveniency in parting with your

tail, and when we are in similar circumstances, perhaps we may do so too."

THE APPLICATION.

When a man tells you a plausible story, look to his circumstances rather than to his words.

FAB. XLVIII.—THE OLD MAN AND DEATH.



Life is sweet.

A poor feeble old Man, who had crawled out into a neighbouring wood, to gather a few sticks, had made up his bundle, and laying it over his shoulders, was trudging homeward with it; but, what with age, and the length of the way, and the weight of his burden, he grew so faint

and weak, that he sunk under it; and, as he sat on the ground, called upon Death to come, once for all, and ease him of his troubles. Death no sooner heard him, but he came and demanded of him what he wanted. The poor old creature, who little thought Death had been so near, and frightened almost out of his senses, with his terrible aspect, answered him trembling, "that having, by chance, let his bundle of sticks fall, and being too infirm to get it up himself, he had made bold to call upon him to help him; that, indeed, this was all he wanted at present; and that he hoped his worship was not offended with him, for the liberty he had taken, in so doing."

THE APPLICATION.

The true way to take from Death its terrors, is to have it always before our eyes, and, by leading a religious and virtuous life, to acquire a good conscience; above all, placing full confidence in the goodness and mercy of God. Otherwise, when Death comes, it finds us unprepared and full of lamentation. Let us recollect, that Death is the lot of all, and let us not spend, in useless complaints, the time that should be employed in serious preparation.

FAB. XLIX.—THE STAG AND THE FAWN.



A coward and a boaster are near a kin.

A STAG, grown old and mischievous, was, according to custom, stamping with his foot, making offers with his head, and bellowing so terribly, that the whole herd quaked for fear of him: when one of the little Fawns coming up, addressed him to this purpose: "Pray, what is the reason that you, who are stout and formidable at all other times, if you do but hear the cry of the hounds, are ready to fly out of your skin for fear?" "What you observe is true," replied the Stag, "though I know not how to account for it. I am, indeed vigorous, and am able enough, I think,

to make my part good any where, and often resolve with myself, that nothing shall ever dismay my courage for the future; but, alas! I do no sooner hear the voice of a hound, but all my spirits fail me, and I cannot help making off as fast as ever my legs can carry me."

THE APPLICATION.

A close mouth, they say, shews a wise head. When a man talks of himself he had best be humble, for great pretensions are always exposed.

Fools, to boasting ever prone,
Are sure to make their weakness known.

FAB. L.—THE YOUNG MAN & THE SWALLOW.



Appearances are deceitful.

A PRODIGAL young spendthrift, who had wasted his whole patrimony in taverns

and gaming-houses, among wicked and idle company, was taking a melancholy walk near a brook. It was in the month of January; and happened to be one of those warm, sun-shiny days, which sometimes smile upon us, even in that wintry season of the year; and, to make it the more flattering, a Swallow, which had made its appearance, by mistake, too soon, flew skimming about upon the surface of the water. The giddy youth, observing this, without any further consideration, concluded that summer was now come, and that he should have little or no occasion for clothes; so he went and pawned them at the broker's and ventured the money for one stake more, among his sharping companions. When this too was gone the same way with the rest, he took another solitary walk in the same place as before. But the weather being severe and frosty, had made every thing look with an aspect very different from what it did before; the brook was quite frozen over, and the poor Swallow lay dead upon the bank of it; the very sight of which cooled the

young Spark's brains, and coming to a kind of sense of his misery, he reproached the deceased bird as the author of his misfortunes: "Ah, wretch that thou art!" says he, "thou hast undone both thyself and me, who was so credulous as to depend upon thee."

THE APPLICATION.

Always in fair weather be prepared for foul, for many a fine morning turns out a rainy afternoon. Trust not to every tale, lest a sorry one be told of yourself.

FAB. LI.—THE ANGLER & THE LITTLE FISH.



A Bird in the Hand is worth two in the Bush.

A Man was angling in a river, and caught a small perch; which, as he was

taking off the hook, and going to put it into his basket, opened its mouth, and began to implore his pity, begging that he would throw it into the river again. Upon the man's demanding, What reason he had to expect such a favour? "Why," says the fish, "because, at present, I am but young and little, and consequently not so well worth your while, as I shall be, if you take mesome time hence, when I am grown larger." "That may be," replies the man; "but I am not one of those fools who quit a certainty, in expectation of an uncertainty."

THE APPLICATION.

We may look towards to-morrow, but yesterday never returns. Dont give up what is certain for what depends upon chance.



FAB. LII.—THE ASS AND THE LION HUNTING.



An easy fool
Is a knaves tool.

THE Lion took a fancy to hunt in company with the Ass: and to make him the more useful, gave him instructions to hide himself in a thicket, and then to bray in the most frightful manner that he could possibly contrive. "By this means," says he, "you will rouze all the beasts within the hearing of you; while I stand at the outlets, and take them as they are making off." This was done; and the stratagem took effect accordingly. The Ass brayed most hideously: and the timorous beasts, not knowing what to make of it, began to

scour off as fast as they could; when the Lion, who was posted at a proper avenue, seized and devoured them, as he pleased. Having got his belly full, he called out to the Ass, and bid him leave off, telling him, he had done enough. Upon this, the lop-eared brute came out of his ambush, and approaching the Lion, asked him, with an air of conceit, how he liked his performance? "prodigiously," says he; "you did it so well, that I protest had I not known your nature and temper, I might have been frightened myself.

THE APPLICATION.

He that hunts for another may have short commons and a laugh for his wages.



FAB. LIII.—THE BOASTING TRAVELLER.



He that speaks lavishly,
Shall hear knavishly.

One who had been abroad, at his return home again, was giving an account of his travels: and among other places, said he had been at Rhodes, where he had so distinguished himself in leaping, an exercise that city was famous for, that not a Rhodian could come near him. When those who were present did not seem to credit this relation so readily as he intended they should, he took some pains to convince them of it, by oaths and protestations; upon which, one of the company

rising up, told him, he need not give himself so much trouble about it, since he would put him in a way to demonstrate it in fact; which was, to suppose the place they were in, to be Rhodes, and to perform his extraordinary leap over again. The boaster, not liking this proposal, sat down quietly, and had no more to say for himself.

THE APPLICATION.

Truth may be blamed,
But cannot be shamed;

while the liar is sure to be disgraced in the long run. Lying lips, we know, are an abomination to the Lord, but they that deal truly are his delight.

FAB. LIV.—THE BROTHER AND SISTER.



Handsome is, that handsome does.

A CERTAIN man had two children, a son and a daughter. The boy beautiful and

handsome enough, the girl not quite so well. They were both very young, and happened, one day, to be playing near the looking glass, which stood on their mother's toilet: the boy pleased with the novelty of the thing, viewed himself for some time, and in a roguish manner, took notice to the girl how handsome he was. She resented it, and could not bear the insolent manner in which he did it; for she understood it as (how could she do otherwise?) intended for a direct affront to her. Therefore she ran immediately to her father, and, with a great deal of aggravation, complained of her brother; particularly for having acted so effeminate a part as to look into a glass, and meddle with things which belonged to women only. The father embracing them both with much tenderness and affection, told them. That he should like to have them both look in the glass every day, to the intent, "that you," says he to the boy, "if you think that face of yours handsome, may not disgrace and spoil it by an ugly temper, and a foul behaviour. "You," says

he, speaking to the girl, "that you may make up for the defects of your person, if there be any, by the sweetness of your manners, and the agreeableness of your conversation."

THE APPLICATION.

Beauty at best is but skin deep, and is soon blasted. Without prudence it is apt to prove a curse; but virtue is the true beauty of the soul, the treasure of real value, which we should all labour to possess.

FAB. LV.—THE COLLIER AND THE FULLER.



Better alone than in bad company.

THE Collier and the Fuller, being old acquaintances, happened upon a time to meet together, and the latter, being ill provided with a habitation, was invited

by the former to come and live in the same house with him. "I thank you, my dear friend," replies the Fuller, "for your kind offer, but it cannot be; for if I were to dwell with you, whatever I should take pains to scour and to clean in the morning, the dust of you and your coals would blacken and defile, as bad as ever, before night."

THE APPLICATION.

We ought to be careful in the choice of our associates; he that lies down with dogs will rise with fleas, and a man is always judged of, from the company he keeps.

FAB. LVI.—THE TWO FROGS.



Look before you Leap.

ONE hot sultry summer, the lakes and ponds being almost every where dried up,

a couple of frogs agreed to travel together, in search of water. At last they came to a deep well, and sitting upon the brink of it, began to consult, whether they should leap in or not. One of them was for it; urging that there was plenty of clear spring water, and no danger of being disturbed. "Well," says the other, "all this may be true, and yet I cannot come into your opinion for my life; for, if the water should happen to dry up here too, how should we get out again?"

THE APPLICATION.

When a thing is done, it is too late to ask advice, and repentance will not undo the evil that rashness has caused. The prudent man (says Solomon) looketh well to his going.



FAB. LVII.—THE EAGLE, THE CAT, AND THE SOW.



An open foe may prove a curse,
But a pretended friend is worse.

An Eagle had built her nest upon the top branches of an old oak. A wild Cat inhabited a hole in the middle; and in the hollow part at the bottom, was a Sow, with a whole litter of pigs. A happy neighbourhood; and might long have continued so, had it not been for the wicked insinuations of the designing cat: for, first of all, up she crept to the Eagle, "Good neighbour," says she, "we shall be all undone: that filthy Sow yonder, does nothing but lie rooting at the foot of the tree, and, as I suspect, intends to grub it up, that she

may the more easily come at your young ones. For my part, I will take care of my own concerns; you may do as you please: but I will watch her motions, though I stay at home this month for it." When she had said this, which could not fail of putting the Eagle into a great fright, down she went, and made a visit to the Sow at the bottom: and putting on a sorrowful face; "I hope," says she, "you do not intend to go abroad to day? "Why not?" says the Sow. "Nay," replies the other, "you may do as you please; but I overheard the Eagle tell her young ones that she would treat them with a pig, the first time that she saw you go out; and I am not sure but she may take up with a kitten in the mean time; so, good morrow to you; you will excuse me; I must go and take care of the little folks at home." Away she went accordingly, and by contriving to steal out softly a-nights for her prey, and to stand watching and peeping all day at her hole, as under great concern; she made such an impression upon the Eagle and the Sow, that neither of them dared to venture abroad, for fear of the other: the conse-

quence of which was, that they and their young ones, in a little time were all starved and made prizes of by the treacherous Cat and her kittens.

THE APPLICATION.

Avoid Gossips and Tale-bearers, for they set on fire every house they come into. He that listens to slander against his neighbour, shall have an ill story told of himself.

FAB. LVIII.—THE GOAT AND THE LION.



Strangers are not to be trusted.

THE Lion, seeing the Goat upon a deep craggy rock where he could not come at him, asked him, what delight he could take to skip from one precipice to another, all day,

and venture the breaking of his neck every moment? "I wonder," says he, "you will not come down, and feed on the plain here, where there is such plenty of good grass and fine sweet herbs." "Why," replies the Goat, "I cannot but say your opinion is right; but you look so very hungry and designing, that to tell you the truth, I do not care to venture my person where you are."

THE APPLICATION.

He that places confidence in a man he knows not, does not deserve a friend whom he might trust with safety.



FAB. LIX.—THE FIR TREE AND THE BRAMBLE.



Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth.

A tall straight Fir tree, that stood towering up in the midst of the forest was so proud of his dignity and high station, that he overlooked the little shrubs which grew beneath him. A Bramble, being one of the inferior throng, could by no means brook this haughty carriage, and therefore took him to task, and desired to know what he meant by it. "Because," says the Fir tree, "I look upon myself as the first tree, for beauty and rank, of any in the forest: my spring top shoots up into the clouds, and

my branches display themselves with a perpetual beauty and verdure; while you lie grovelling on the ground, liable to be crushed by every foot that comes near you, and impoverished by the luxurious droppings which fall from my leaves." "All this may be true," replies the bramble, "but when the woodman has marked you out for public use, and the sounding axe comes to be applied to your root, I am mistaken if you would not be glad to change conditions with the very worst of us."

THE APPLICATION.

Self-conceit is ridiculous, and seldom escapes being exposed. The humble are left in peace, while the high and haughty become a mark to all.



FAB. LX.—THE BULL AND THE GOAT.



Shut not your door against the distressed.

The Bull being pursued by a Lion, made towards a cave, in which he designed to secure himself, but was opposed just at the entrance, by a Goat, who had got possession before him, and threatening a kind of defiance with his horns, seemed resolved to dispute the pass with him. The Bull who thought he had no time to lose in a contest of this nature, immediately made off again, but told the Goat, that it was not for fear of him, or his defiance: "For," says he, "if the Lion were not so near, I would soon

make you know the difference between a Bull and a Goat."

THE APPLICATION.

Of the social virtues few are more amiable than Hospitality. The rule to be observed in its exercise, is to exclude those only who do not deserve your assistance.

FAB. LXI.—THE FOX & THE COUNTRYMAN.



A friend by halves is no friend at all.

A Fox, being hard hunted, and having run a long chace, was much tired; at last, he spied a country fellow in a wood, to whom he applied for refuge, entreating that he would give him leave to hide himself in his cottage, till the hounds were gone by.

The Man consented, and the Fox went and covered himself up close, in a corner of the hovel. Presently, the hunters came up, and enquired of the man, if he had seen the Fox. Fox, says he, I have not seen him indeed; but all the while he pointed with his finger to the place where the Fox was hid. However, the hunters did not understand him, but called off their hounds and went another way. Soon after, the Fox, creeping out of his hole, was going to sneak off, when the man, calling after him, asked him, if that was his manners, to go away without thanking his benefactor, to whose fidelity he owed his life. Reynard, who had peeped all the while, and seen what passed, answered, I know what obligations I have to you well enough; and I assure you, if your actions had but been agreeable to your words, I should have endeavoured, however incapable of it, to return you suitable thanks.

THE APPLICATION.

If you do a good office, do it effectually; for else, you will not deserve thanks, any more than he, who, after mowing the grass, refused to make the hay.

FAB. LXII.—THE MULE.



What is bred in the bone, 'tis hard to get out of the flesh.

A Mule which was fed well, and worked little, grew fat and wanton, and frisked about very notably. "And why should not I run as well as the best of them?" says he: "it is well known I had a horse to my father, and a very good racer he was." Soon after this, his master took him out, and being upon urgent business, whipped and spurred the mule, to make him put forward; who, beginning to tire upon the road, changed his note and said to himself, "Ah! where is the horse's blood you boasted of but now? I am sorry to say it, friend, but indeed your worthy sire was an Ass, and not a horse."

THE APPLICATION.

He that boasts of himself, is little to be relied on, and he that boasts of his family, ought to prove himself worthy of it by his actions.

FAB. LXIII.—THE JACKDAW AND THE PIGEONS.



Put not on false colours.

A Jackdaw, observing that the Pigeons in a certain dove-cote, lived well, and wanted for nothing, white-washed his feathers, and endeavouring to look as much like a dove as he could, went and lived among them. The Pigeons, not distinguishing him as long as he kept silent, forbore to give him any disturbance. But at last, he forgot his character, and began to chatter; by which the Pigeons, discovering what he was, flew upon

him, and beat him away from the meat, so that he was obliged to fly back to the Jackdaws again. They not knowing him in his discoloured feathers, drove him away likewise: so that he who had endeavoured to be more than he had a right to, was not permitted to be any thing at all.

THE APPLICATION.

Make not unfounded pretensions; profess to be only what you are, otherwise no one will place confidence in your word.

FAB. LXIV.—THE SPARROW & THE HARE.



Don't hollow, until you are out of the wood.

A Hare being seized by an Eagle, squeaked out in most woful manner. A Spar-

row that sat upon a tree just by, and saw it, could not forbear being unseasonably witty, but called out and said to the Hare, "Soho, what, sit there and be killed? Pr'ythee, up, and away; I dare say, if you would but try, so swift a creature as you are, would easily escape from the Eagle." As he was going on with his cruel raillery, down came a Hawk, and snapped him up; and, notwithstanding his vain cries and lamentations, fell a devouring of him in an instant. The Hare was just expiring, yet, even in the agonies of death, he addressed the Sparrow thus: "You, who just now insulted my misfortunes with so much security, as you thought, may please to shew us how well you can bear the like, now it has befallen you."

THE APPLICATION.

He that is glad at calamities (says the wise Solomon) shall not be unpunished. Nothing is more cruel than to make a sport of our neighbour's misery.

FAB. LXV,—THE SHEEP BITER.



No enemy so dangerous as a false friend.

A CERTAIN Shepherd had a Dog, upon whose fidelity he relied very much: for, whenever he had an occasion to be absent himself, he committed the care of his flock to the charge of this Dog; and to encourage him to do his duty cheerfully, he fed him constantly with sweet curds and whey; and sometimes threw him a crust or two extraordinary. Yet, notwithstanding this, no sooner was his back turned, but the treacherous cur fell foul of the flock, and devoured the sheep instead of guarding and defending them. The shepherd being informed of this,

was resolved to hang him; and the dog, when the rope was about his neck, and he was just going to be tied up, began to expostulate with his master, asking him, why he was so unmercifully bent against him, who was his own servant and creature, and had only committed one or two crimes; and why he did not rather execute revenge upon the wolf, who was a constant, open, and declared enemy? "Nay," replies the shepherd, "it is for that very reason that I think you ten times more worthy of death than he; from him, I expected nothing but hostilities, and therefore could guard against him; you, I depended upon as a just and faithful servant, and fed and encouraged you accordingly; and therefore your treachery is the more notorious, and your ingratitude the more unpardonable."

THE APPLICATION.

It is a base crime to repay confidence by treachery, and to injure the friend who trusts us. Such crimes merit the severest punishment.

FAB. LXVI.—THE THIEF AND THE DOG.



Be true to your trust.

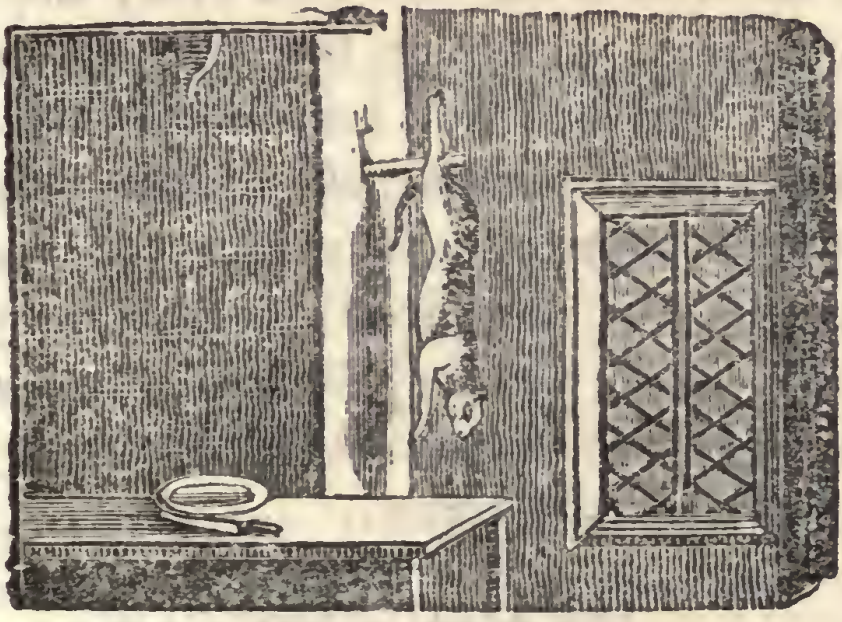
A THIEF, coming to rob a certain house in the night, was disturbed in his attempts by a fierce vigilant Dog, who kept barking at him continually. Upon which, the Thief, thinking to stop his mouth, threw him a piece of bread; but the Dog refused it with indignation; telling him, that, before, he only suspected him to be a bad man, but now, upon his offering to bribe him, he was confirmed in his opinion, and as he was intrusted with the guardianship of his master's house, he should never cease barking, while such a rogue as he lay lurking about it."

THE APPLICATION.

Let no man tempt you to betray your trust. An honest man will spurn at a bribe, and none but a fool will believe a designing fellow to be his friend; remember that,

Who friendship with a knave has made,
Is judged a partner in the trade.

FAB. LXVII.—THE CAT AND THE MICE.



He that is twice deceived by the same man, is once treated as he deserves.

A CERTAIN house was much infested with Mice; but at last they got a Cat, who caught, and every day, eat some of them. The Mice, finding their numbers grow thin, consulted what was best to be done

for the preservation of the public, from the jaws of the devouring Cat. They debated, and came to this resolution, that no one should go down below the upper shelf. The Cat, observing the Mice no longer came down as usual, hungry and disappointed of her prey, had recourse to this stratagem: she hung by her hinder legs on a peg which stuck in the wall, and made as if she had been dead, hoping by this lure, to entice the Mice to come down. She had not been in this posture long, before a cunning old Mouse peeped over the edge of the shelf, and spoke thus: "Ah! my good friend, are you there? there you may be! I would not trust myself with you, though your skin were stuffed with straw."

THE APPLICATION.

The most prudent man may be once deceived, but only a fool will give a second opportunity to the same man to take him in.

FAB. LXVIII.—THE ONE-EYED DOE.



Danger oft comes when it is least expected.

A Doe, that had but one eye, used to graze near the sea; and that she might be the more secure from harm, she kept her blind side towards the water, from whence she had no apprehension of danger, and with the other, surveyed the country as she fed. By this vigilance and precaution, she thought herself in the utmost security; when a fellow, with two or three of his companions, who had been looking out for her, several days, to no purpose, at last took a boat, and fetching a compass upon the sea, came gently down upon her, and shot her. The Doe, in the

agonies of death, breathed out this doleful complaint, "O hard fate! that I should receive my death's wound from that side, whence I expected no ill, and be safe in that part where I looked for the most danger."

THE APPLICATION.

When there seems the least cause for alarm, we often ought to be most careful; for, danger and security are next door neighbours.

FAB. LXIX.—THE HARPER.



The Cobler should stick to his Last.

A FELLOW that used to play upon his harp, and sing to it in little alehouses, and made a shift, by the help of those

narrow confined walls, to please the dull sots who heard him; from hence entertained an ambition of shewing his parts upon the public theatre, where he fancied he could not fail of raising a great reputation and fortune in a very short time. He was accordingly admitted upon trial; but the spaciousness of the place, and the throng of the people, so deadened and weakened both his voice and instrument, that scarcely either of them could be heard; and where they could, it sounded so poor, so low, and so wretched, in the ears of his refined audience, that he was universally rejected and hissed off the stage.

THE APPLICATION.

Every one ought to be content to move in his own sphere, for vanity always renders a man ridiculous. If you set your best cart-horse to run races, he will make sad work of it.



FAB. LXX.—THE TWO CRABS.



Example is the best of sermons.

It is said to be the nature of a Crab-fish to go backwards; however, a Mother-Crab, one day, reproved her daughter, and was in a great passion with her for her untoward, awkward gait, which she desired her to alter, and not to move in a way so contradictory to the rest of the world. "Indeed, mother," says the young Crab, "I walk as decently as I can, and to the best of my knowledge; but if you would have me go otherwise, I beg you will be so good as to practice it first, and shew me by your own example, how you would have me behave myself."

THE APPLICATION.

Ere thou remark'st another's sin,
Bid thy own conscience look within.

FAB. LXXI.—THE PURSE OF HALFPENCE.



Honesty is the best Policy.

A COUNTRY fellow, returning from work, happened to drop a leather-purse containing some shillings worth of halfpence, which he was bringing home to his family. Being in great distress at the loss of his money, it came into his head to relate his misfortune to a rich neighbour, who, as chance would have it, had actually picked up the very bag which was lost.—

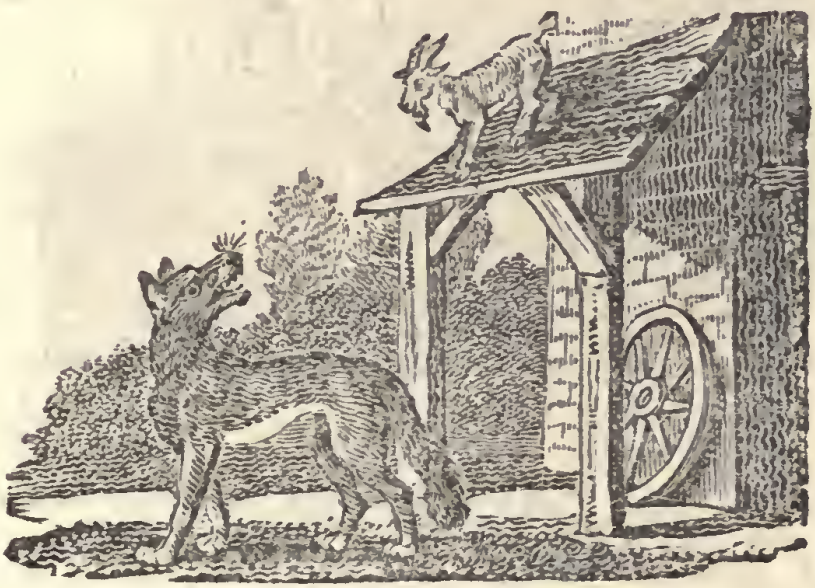
His neighbour listened to his tale, and to make trial of his honesty, shewed him a leather bag with some gold in it, demanding if that were his? the other denied that it was; upon which he offered him another full of silver, which the man likewise refused, alledging that neither was this his; the third time he presented to him the individual purse he had lost, the sight of which overjoyed the poor fellow, who received it with all humility and thankfulness. His neighbour was so pleased with these proofs of honesty, that he gave him the other two into the bargain, as a reward for his just dealing. The man goes to his companions, and giving them an account of what had befallen him, one of them, shortly after, let fall *his* purse of halfpence, and going to the same person, bemoans his loss with all the marks of violent distress; his craft was perceived, a purse of gold being shewn to him, he was asked, if that was the one he had lost? transported at the sight of the precious metal, he answered, yes, and went to snatch it greedily, but

the other detesting his abominable wickedness, not only refused to give him that, but would not as much as help him to the recovery of his own, which had been found by a stranger, and was never heard of again.

THE APPLICATION.

Although on some occasions, a rogue may have the best of the game, it very seldom happens that he is not found out and disappointed at last.

FAB. LXXII.—THE KID AND THE WOLF.



A Coward may boast when he is safe.

A KID, being mounted upon the roof of a shed, and seeing a Wolf below, loaded him with all manner of reproaches. Upon which the Wolf looking up, replied, "Do not value yourself, vain creature, upon thinking you mortify me; for I look

upon this ill language as not coming from you, but from the place which protects you."

THE APPLICATION.

To insult any person, is at all times culpable; but to abuse, because you are safe from a reply, is also contemptible.

FAB. LXXIII.—THE WOLF AND THE KID.



Fast bind, fast find.

THE Goat, going abroad to feed, shut up her young Kid at home, charging him to bolt the door fast, and open it to nobody, till she herself should return. The Wolf, who lay lurking just by, heard this charge given, and, soon after, came and knocked at the door, counterfeiting the voice of the Goat, and desiring to be admitted. The Kid, looking out at a win-

dow, and finding the cheat, bid him go about his business; for, however he might imitate a Goat's voice, yet he appeared too much like a Wolf to be trusted.

THE APPLICATION.

More misfortunes are occasioned by carelessness than by mistake; 'tis much easier to fall into a trap, than to get out of it.

FAB. LXXIV.—THE WOLF, THE FOX, AND THE APE.



A good name lost is ne'er retrieved.

The Wolf indicted the Fox of felony, before the Ape, who, upon that occasion, was appointed special judge of the cause. The Fox gave in his answer to the Wolf's accusation, and denied the fact. So, after a fair hearing on both sides, the Ape

gave judgment to this purpose: "I am of opinion that you," says he to the Wolf, "never lost the goods you sue for: and as for you," turning to the Fox, "I make no question," said he, "but you have stolen what is laid to your charge, at least." And thus the court was dismissed, with this public censure passed upon each party.

THE APPLICATION.

If you have a bad character, it will come against you in the day of your necessity; while a good character is a small fortune.

FAB. LXXV.—THE BOY AND HIS MOTHER.



He that spareth the rod hateth the child.

A LITTLE Boy, who went to school, stole one of his school-fellow's horn books,

and brought it home to his mother, who was so far from correcting and discouraging him upon account of the theft, that she commended and gave him an apple for his pains. In process of time, as the child grew up to be a man, he accustomed himself to greater robberies, and, at last, being apprehended and committed to gaol, he was tried and condemned for felony. On the day of his execution, as the officers were conducting him to the gallows, he was attended by a vast crowd of people, and amongst the rest by his Mother, who came sighing and sobbing along, and taking on extremely for her son's unhappy fate; which the criminal observing, called to the sheriff, and begged the favour of him, that he would give him leave to speak a word or two to his poor afflicted Mother. The sheriff, (as who would deny a dying man so reasonable a request?) gave him permission; and the felon, while, as every one thought, he was whispering something of importance to his Mother, bit off her ear, to the great offence and surprize of the whole assembly. "What!" said they, "was not this

villain contented with the impious acts which he has already committed, but he must increase the number of them by doing this violence to his Mother ?" "Good people :" replied he, "I would not have you be under a mistake; that wicked woman deserves this, and even worse at my hands: for if she had chastised and chid, instead of rewarding and caressing me, when in my infancy I stole the horn-book from school, I had not come to this ignominious, untimely end."

THE APPLICATION.

He that brings up his son to nothing, breeds a Thief; it is easy to correct the first faults of a child, while, if they be overlooked, or, which is worse, rewarded, he is sure to turn out a wicked man.

The wise King Solomon's Advice ought to be engraved on every parent's heart :—

1st. Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

2d. The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a Child left to himself, bringeth his mother to shame.

3d. Poverty and shame shall be to him that refuseth instruction.

FAB. LXXVI.—THE ANT AND GRASSHOPPER.



Who dainties love,
Shall beggars prove.

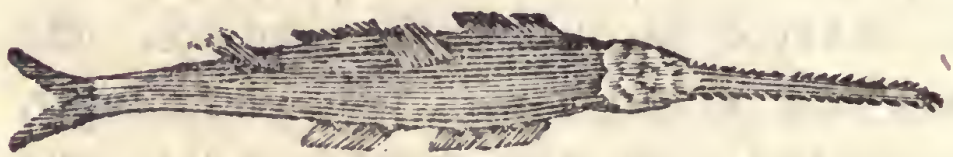
In the winter season, a commonwealth of Ants was busily employed in the management and preservation of their corn; which they exposed to the air, in heaps, round about the avenues of their little country habitation. A Grasshopper, who had chanced to outlive the summer, and was ready to starve with cold and hunger, approached them with great humility, and begged that they would relieve his necessity with one grain of wheat or rye. One of the Ants asked him how he had disposed of his time in summer, that he had

not taken pains, and laid in a stock, as they had done? "Alas! Gentlemen," says he, "I passed away the time merrily and pleasantly, in drinking, singing, and dancing, and never once thought of winter." "If that be the case," replied the Ant, laughing, "all I have to say is, that they who drink, sing, and dance in the summer, must starve in the winter.

THE APPLICATION.

Labour first, rest afterwards. Spend less than you make, or you will soon have nothing to spend, for a man cannot eat his cake and have it too. Give not your youth to intemperance, or you will have sorrow for your old age.

Who can observe the careful Ant,
And not provide for future want.



FAB. LXXVII.—THE ASS, THE LION, AND THE COCK.



Know yourself.

An Ass and a Cock happened to be feeding together in the same place, when, on a sudden they spied a Lion approaching them. This beast is reported, above all things, to have an aversion, or rather an antipathy, to the crowing of a Cock; so that he no sooner heard the voice of that bird, but he took him to his heels, and ran away as fast as ever he could. The Ass, fancying he fled for fear of him, in the bravery of his heart, pursued him, and followed him so far, that they were quite out of the hearing of the Cock; which

the Lion no sooner perceived, but he turned about and seized the Ass; and just as he was ready to tear him to pieces, the sluggish creature is said to have expressed himself thus; "Alas! fool that I was, knowing the cowardice of my own nature, thus by an affected courage, to throw myself into the jaws of death, when I might have remained secure and unmolested!"

THE APPLICATION.

Those who overrate their own abilities, are often exposed to, or brought into danger.

FAB. LXXVIII.—THE ASS & THE LITTLE DOG.



All Men are not fit for all things.

THE Ass, observing how great a favourite the Little Dog was with his master, how

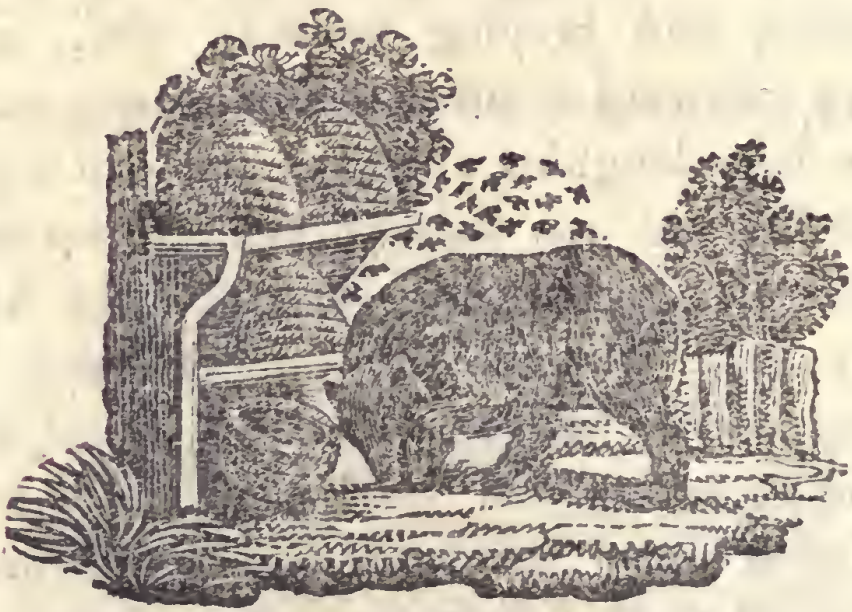
much he was carressed and fondled, and fed with good bits at every meal; and for no other reason, as he could perceive, but skipping and frisking about, wagging his tail, and leaping up into his master's lap, was resolved to imitate the same, and see whether such a behaviour would not procure him the same favours. Accordingly, the master was no sooner come home from walking about his fields and gardens, and seated in his easy chair, but the Ass, who observed him, came gambolling and braying towards him, in a very awkward manner. The master could not help laughing aloud at the odd sight. But his jest was soon turned into earnest, when he felt the rough salute of the Ass's fore-feet, who raising himself upon his hinder legs, pawed against his breast with a most loving air, and would fain have jumped into his lap. The good man, terrified at this outrageous behaviour, and unable to endure the weight of so heavy a beast, cried out, upon which one of his servants running in with a good stick, and laying it heartily upon the bones of the poor Ass, soon convinced him, that every

one who desires it, is not qualified to be a favourite.

THE APPLICATION.

The gifts of Providence are bountiful, but they are variously distributed; a man who is quite unfit for one profession or trade, may be excellent for another. Examine your powers before you enter upon an important undertaking, otherwise you may expect to fail.

FAB. LXXIX.—THE BEAR & THE BEE HIVES.



If you trample on a worm, it will turn upon you.

A Bear, climbing over the fence, into a place where bees were kept, began to plunder the Hives, and rob them of their honey: but the Bees, to revenge the in-

jury, attacked him in a whole swarm together, and though they were not able to pierce his rugged hide, yet with their little stings they so annoyed his eyes and nostrils, that, unable to endure the smarting pain, with impatience he tore the skin over his ears with his own claws, and suffered ample punishment for the injury he did the Bees in breaking open their waxen cells.

THE APPLICATION.

He that unjustly attacks the property of another, may expect punishment. Few are so weak as not to be able at some time or other, to punish a robber; therefore, commit not offences, for the day of retribution will come.



H

FAB. LXXX.—THE HAWK AND THE FARMER.



Harm watch, harm catch.

A Hawk pursuing a Pigeon over a corn field with great eagerness and force, threw himself into a net, which a husbandman had planted there to take the crows; who being employed not far off, and seeing the Hawk fluttering in the net, came and took him: but just as he was going to kill him, the Hawk besought him to let him go, assuring him, that he was only following a Pigeon, and neither intended, nor had done any harm to him. To whom the Farmer replied, "And what harm had the poor Pigeon done to you?" Upon which he wrung his head off immediately.

THE APPLICATION.

When we intend to do an injury to another, we often bring one upon ourselves; for malice is blind, and will run into the ditch.

He that diggeth a pit, shall fall into it.

FAB. LXXXI.—THE DOVE AND THE ANT.



One good turn deserves another.

THE Ant compelled by thirst, went to drink in a clear, purling rivulet; but the current, with its circling eddy snatched her away, and carried her down the stream. A Dove, pitying her distressed condition, cropped a branch from a neighbouring tree, and let it fall into the water, by means of which, the Ant saved herself,

and got ashore. Not long after, a fowler, having a design upon the Dove, planted his nets in due order, without the bird's observing what he was about; which the Ant perceiving, just as he was going to put his design into execution, she bit him by the heel, and made him give so sudden a start, that the Dove took the alarm, and flew away.

THE APPLICATION.

It is our duty, on all occasions, to do good, and it will generally prove our worldly interest to act thus, for there are few who may not be able to repay a service.



FAB. LXXXII.—THE EAGLE AND THE CROW.



He that seeketh danger, perisheth unpitied.

An Eagle flew down from the top of a high rock, and settled upon the back of a lamb; and then instantly flying up into the air again, bore his bleating prize aloft in his pounces. A Crow, who sat upon an elm, and beheld this exploit, resolved to imitate it; so flying down upon the back of a ram, and entangling his claws in the wool, he fell a chattering, and attempting to fly, by which means, he drew the observation of the shepherd upon him, who finding his feet hampered in the fleece of the ram, easily took him, and gave him to his boys for their sport and diversion.

THE APPLICATION.

To imitate others in committing evil deeds is wicked, and leads to destruction. He that copies a thief will soon arrive at the gallows.

FAB. LXXXIII.—THE GEESE AND THE CRANES.



Evil Companions bring a man into danger.

A FLOCK of Geese and a parcel of Cranes used often to feed together in a corn-field. At last, the owner of the corn, coming upon them of a sudden, with his servants, surprised them in the very fact; and the Geese, being heavy, fat, full bodied creatures, were most of them sufferers; but the Cranes, being thin and light, easily flew away.

THE APPLICATION.

When you are in vicious company, you are among enemies, whatever they may say to the contrary: depend upon it, that when you join in any wicked scheme, your accomplices will always take care of themselves, and leave you to your fate.

FAB. LXXXIV.—THE BLACKMOOR.



Attempt not impossibilities.

A certain Man, having bought a blackmoor, was so simple as to think, that the colour of his skin was only dirt and filth, which he had contracted for want of due care under his former master. This fault he fancied, might easily be removed. So he ordered the poor Black to be put into a tub, and was at a considerable charge in provid-

ing ashes, soap, and scrubbing-brushes, for the operation. To work they went rubbing and scrubbing his skin all over, but to no purpose: For when they had repeated their washings several times, and were grown quite weary, all they got by it was, that the wretched Blackmoor caught cold and died.

THE APPLICATION.

If you attempt what is impossible, the least evil you may expect is disappointment. Should a man try to stop the tide with a pitchfork he may be drowned by it.



FAB. LXXXV.—THE HORSE AND THE LION.



'Tis pleasant to outshoot a man with his own bow.

A Lion, seeing a fine plump nag, had a great mind to eat a bit of him, but knew not which way to get him into his power. At last, he bethought himself of this contrivance; he gave out that he was a physician, who having gained experience by his travels into foreign countries, had made himself capable of curing any malady or distemper incident to any kind of beast; hoping, by this stratagem, to get an easier admittance among the cattle, and an opportunity to execute his design. The horse, who smoked the matter, was resolved to be even with him; and so, humouring the

thing, as if he suspected nothing, he prayed the Lion to give him his advice in relation to a thorn he had got in his foot, which had quite lamed him, and gave him great pain and uneasiness. The Lion readily agreed, and desired he might see the foot: upon which, the Horse lifted up one of his hind legs, and while the Lion pretended to be poring earnestly upon his hoof, gave him such a kick in the face as quite stunned him. In the mean time the Horse trotted away, neighing and laughing merrily at the success of the trick, by which he had defeated the purpose of one, who intended to have tricked him out of his life.

THE APPLICATION.

He that playeth a wily trick, often beguileth himself, and evil is not seldom his lot, that evil thinks.



FAB. LXXXVI.—THE LION, THE BEAR, AND THE FOX.



Those who strive to keep all, often lose all.

A Lion and a Bear fell together by the ears, over the carcass of a Fawn, which they found in the forest, their title to him being to be decided by force of arms. The battle was severe and tough on both sides, and they held it out, tearing and worrying one another so long, that, what with wounds and fatigue, they were so faint and weary, they were not able to strike another stroke. Thus, while they lay upon the ground, panting and lolling out their tongues, a Fox chanced to pass by that way, who, perceiving how the case stood, very impudently stept in be-

tween them, seized the booty which they had all this while been contending for, and carried it off. The two combatants who lay and beheld all this, without having strength enough to stir and prevent it, were only wise enough to make this reflection; "Behold the fruits of our strife and contention! that villain, the Fox, bears away the prize, and we ourselves have deprived each other of the power to recover it from him."

THE APPLICATION.

Go not forth hastily to strive, (says the wise Solomon,) lest thou know not what to do in the end thereof, when thy neighbour hath put thee to shame.

We should do well to recollect this maxim, and to pause before we engage in law-suits; by yielding a little, we often save much; nobody pities the man who is ruined by hasty and ill-advised quarrels with his neighbour.

FAB. LXXXVII.—THE FOX AND THE SICK LION.



All are not friends that speak us fair.

It was reported that the Lion was sick, and the beasts were made to believe, that they could not make their court better, than by going to visit him. Upon this, they generally went; but it was particularly taken notice of, that the Fox was not one of the number. The Lion, therefore, dispatches one of his jackalls to sound him about it, and ask him, why he had so little charity and respect, as never to come near him, at a time when he lay so dangerously ill, and every body else had been to see him. "Why," replied

the Fox, "pray present my duty to his Majesty, and tell him, that I have the same respect for him as ever, and have been coming several times to kiss his royal hand; but I am so terribly frightened at the mouth of his cave, to see the print of my fellow-subjects' feet all pointing forwards, and none backwards, that I have not resolution enough to venture in." Now, the truth of the matter was, that this sickness of the Lion was only a sham, to draw the beasts into his den, the more easily to devour them.

THE APPLICATION.

When an enemy makes fine professions, it is time to remember the Proverb, Fair words butter no parsnips.



FAB. LXXXVIII.—THE MICE IN COUNCIL.



In the multitude of Counsellors, there is safety

The Mice called a general council; and having met, after the doors were locked, entered into a free consultation about ways and means, how to render their fortunes and estates more secure from the danger of the Cat. Many things were offered, and much was debated, *pro* and *con*, upon the matter. At last, a young Mouse, in a fine florid speech, concluded upon an expedient, and that the only one, which was to put them, for the future, entirely out of the power of the enemy; and this was, that the Cat should wear a

bell about her neck, which, upon the least motion, would give the alarm, and be a signal for them to retire into their holes. This speech was received with great applause, and it was even proposed by some, that the Mouse who made it, should have the thanks of the assembly. Upon which, an old grave Mouse, who had sat silent all the while, stood up, and in another speech, owned that the contrivance was admirable, and the author of it, without doubt, an ingenious Mouse; but, he said, he thought it would not be so proper to vote him thanks, till he should farther inform them, how this bell was to be fastened about the Cat's neck, and what Mouse would undertake to do it.

THE APPLICATION.

"Many heads are better than one," says the Proverb, and many a silly scheme is stopped by sensible advice; rash persons had best attend to the counsels of the experienced, or they will certainly get into a scrape.

FAB. LXXXIX.—THE OLD MAN & HIS SONS.



A House divided against itself can't stand.

An Old Man had many Sons, who were often falling out with one another. When the father had exerted his authority, and used other means in order to reconcile them, and all to no purpose, at last, he had recourse to this expedient: he ordered his Sons to be called before him, and a short bundle of sticks to be brought; and then commanded them one by one, to try if, with all their might and strength, they could any of them break it. They all tried, but to no purpose; for the sticks being closely and compactly bound up together, it was impossible for the force

of man to do it. After this, the father ordered the bundle to be untied, and gave a single stick to each of his Sons, at the same time, bidding them to try to break it. Which, when each had done, with all imaginable ease, the father addressed himself to them to this effect: "O my Sons, behold the power of unity! For if you in like manner, would but keep yourselves strictly conjoined in the bonds of friendship, it would not be in the power of any mortal to hurt you; but when once the ties of brotherly affection are dissolved, how soon do you fall to pieces, and become liable to be violated by every injurious hand that assaults you."

THE APPLICATION.

Discord, at all times odious, is doubly so among Members of the same family.

He that makes an enemy of his brother,
Will hardly find a friend in any other.

If a man love not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

FAB. XC.—THE OLD WOMAN AND HER MAIDS.



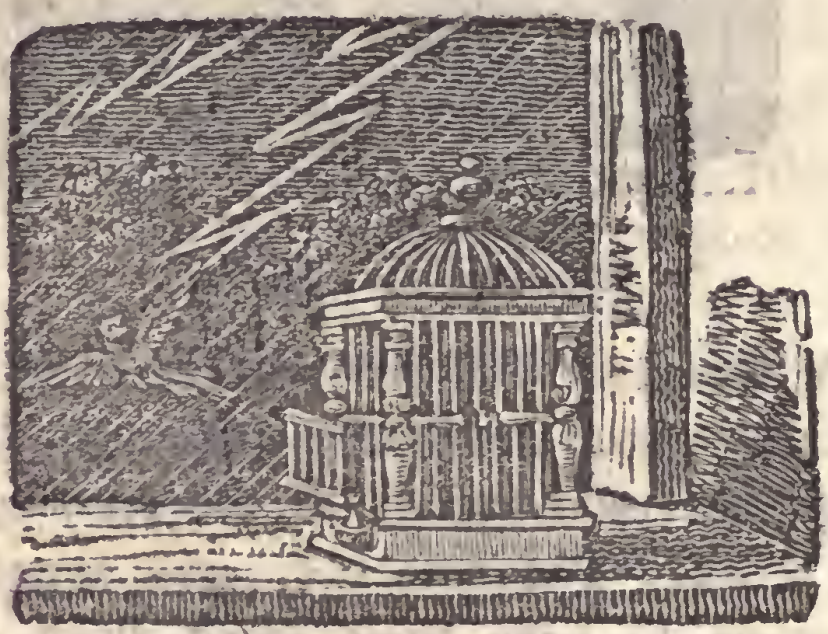
Better so than worse.

A CERTAIN Old Woman had several Maids, whom she used to call up to their work, every morning, at the crowing of the cock. The wenches, who found it grievous to have their sweet sleep disturbed so early, combined together, and killed the cock, thinking that, when the alarm was gone, they might enjoy themselves in their warm beds a little longer. The Old Woman, grieved for the loss of her cock, and having, by some means or other, discovered the whole plot, was resolved to be even with them; for, from that time, she obliged them to rise constantly at midnight.

THE APPLICATION.

The man who will not patiently submit to slight evils, may meet with others harder to bear. 'Tis folly to expect that every thing shall be exactly as we desire, and 'tis wickedness to avoid the performance of our duty by a trick.

FAB. XCI.—THE PARROT AND HIS CAGE.



What can't be cured
Must be endured.

A Parrot, which belonged to a person of quality, was fed every day with plenty of choice dainties, and kept in a stately cage, which was set abroad upon a marble table in the garden, that he might enjoy the light of the sky, and the freshness of the air, to the best advantage. His mas-

ter, and all the family, when they talked to him, used the most tender, fond expressions, and the disorder of his feathers was smoothed with kindly touches by the fair hand of his lady; yet, notwithstanding this happy situation, he was uneasy, and envied the condition of those birds who lived free in the wilderness, and hopped up and down, unconfined, from bough to bough. He earnestly longed to lead the same life, and secretly pined with grief, because his wishes were denied him. After some time, however, it happened that the door of his cage was left unfastened, and the long-wished-for opportunity was given him of making an elopement. Accordingly, out he flew, and conveyed himself among the shades of a neighbouring wood, where he thought to spend the remainder of his days in content. But, alas! poor Poll was mistaken; a thousand inconveniencies, which he never dreamed of, attended this elopement of his, and he is now really that miserable creature, which, before, his imagination only made him. He is buffetted by the savage inhabitants of the grove; and his

imitation of the human voice, which formerly rendered him so agreeable, does but the more expose him to the fierce resentment of the feathered nation. The delicate food with which he used to be fed, is no more: he is unskilled in the ways of providing for himself, and even ready to die with hunger. A storm of rain, thunder, and lightning, fills all the air, and he has no place to screen or protect him; his feathers are wetted with the heavy shower, and blasted with the flashes of lightning. His tender nature, suited to a milder climate, could not stand the severe shock; he even died under it; but just before he breathed his last, he is said to have made this reflection; "Ah, poor Poll! were you but in your cage again, you would never wander more."

THE APPLICATION.

He that changes his situation without good reason, may live to regret it.

Better far to bear those ills we have,
Than fly to others that we know not of.

FAB. XCII.—THE FOWLER AND THE RING-DOVE.



He that mischief hatcheth,
Mischief always catcheth.

A FOWLER took his gun, and went into the woods a shooting. He spied a Ring-dove among the branches of an oak, and intended to kill it. He clapped the piece to his shoulder, and took his aim accordingly; but just as he was going to pull the trigger, an adder which he had trod upon under the grass stung him so painfully in the leg, that he was forced to quit his design, and threw his gun down in a passion. The poison immediately infected his blood, and his whole body began to mortify; which when he perceived, he

could not help owning it to be just. "Fate," says he, "has brought destruction upon me, while I was contriving the death of another."

THE APPLICATION.

No one deserves a misfortune so much as he who designs to injure another person. He ought to walk warily who has laid snares for his neighbour.

FAB. XCIII.—THE HUSBANDMAN AND THE STORK.



Evil company bringeth a man into misfortune.

A husbandman pitched a net in his fields, to take the Cranes and Geese which came to feed upon the new-sown corn. Accordingly, he took several, both Cranes and

Geese, and among them, a Stork, who pleaded hard for his life, and, among other apologies which he made, alledged that he was neither goose nor crane, but a poor harmless Stork, who performed his duty to his parents to all intents and purposes, feeding them when they were old, and as occasion required, carrying them from place to place upon his back. "All this may be true," replies the husbandman, "but as I have taken you in bad company, and in the same crime, you must expect to suffer the same punishment."

THE APPLICATION.

Tell me your Company, (says the Proverb,) and I'll tell you what you are; if a man be found among knaves, his character will be but of little service to him.



FAB. XCIV.—THE SHEPHERD'S BOY.



Lies will surely bring a man to trouble, but Truth never will.

A CERTAIN Shepherd's Boy, kept his sheep upon a common, and, in sport and wantonness, would often cry out, "The wolf! the wolf!" By this means, he several times, drew the husbandmen, in an adjoining field, from their work; who, finding themselves deluded, resolved for the future to take no notice of his alarm. Soon after, the wolf came indeed; the B y cried out in earnest; but no heed being given to his cries, the sheep were devoured by the wolf.

THE APPLICATION.

A Liar is not believed even when he tells the truth; if you be once convicted of a falsehood, you cannot expect, that he, whom you have deceived, will ever credit your words.

FAB. XCV.—THE HUSBANDMAN & HIS SONS.



Industry is Fortune's Handmaid.

A CERTAIN husbandman, lying at the point of death, and being desirous his sons should pursue that innocent entertaining course of agriculture, in which, he himself had been engaged all his life, made use of this expedient to induce them to it. He called them to his bedside, and spoke to this effect:

"All the patrimony I have to bequeath to you, Sons, is my farm and my vineyard, of which I make you joint-heirs. But I charge you not to let it go out of your own occupation; for if I have any treasure besides, it lies buried somewhere in the ground, within a foot of the surface." This made the sons conclude, that he talked of money which he had hid there; so after their father's death, with unwearied diligence and application, they carefully dug up every inch, both of the farm and vineyard. From which it came to pass, that though they missed of the treasure they expected, the ground by being so well stirred and loosened, produced so plentiful a crop of all that was sowed in it, as proved a real, and that no inconsiderable treasure.

THE APPLICATION.

Industry is a sure source of happiness and wealth, while idleness and poverty are sworn friends. He that by honest industry has gained an independence, is indeed respectable; but the idle man is always despised. Chance may sometimes throw money in the way of an idler, but what is ill got is soon gone; light come, light go, says the Proverb, and for one who makes a fortune by luck, a thousand lose it by indolence.

FAB. XCVI.—THE SWALLOW & OTHER BIRDS.



Hear counsel and receive Instruction.

A Farmer was sowing his field with flax: The Swallow observed it, and desired the other Birds to assist her in picking the seed up, and destroying it; telling them, that flax was that pernicious material of which the thread was composed which made the fowlers' nets, and by that means, contributed to the ruin of so many innocent Birds: But the poor Swallow not having the good fortune to be regarded, the flax sprung up and appeared above the ground. She then put them in mind once more of

their impending danger, and wished them to pluck it up in the bud, before it went any farther. They still neglected her warnings, and the flax grew up into the high stalk. She yet again desired them to attack it, for that still it was not too late. But all that she could get was to be ridiculed and despised for a silly pretending prophet. The Swallow finding all her remonstrances avail nothing, was resolved to leave the society of such unthinking careless creatures, before it was too late. So quitting the woods she repaired to the houses; and forsaking the conversation of the birds, has ever since made her abode among the dwellings of men.

THE APPLICATION.

When you see a friend threatened with an evil, warn him of his danger; but if he will not listen to your counsel, then take care of yourself, for it would be too hard that you should suffer for his folly.

FAB. XCVII.—THE TRUMPETER TAKEN PRISONER.



He that blows the Coals will be Scorched.

A Trumpeter, being taken prisoner in battle, begged hard for quarter, declaring his innocence, and protesting that he neither had, nor could kill any man, bearing no arms but only his trumpet, which he was obliged to sound at the word of command. "For that reason," replies his enemies, "we are determined not to spare you, for though you yourself never fight, yet, with that wicked instrument of your's, you blow up animosity between other people, and so become the occasion of much bloodshed."

THE APPLICATION.

'Tis as bad to aggravate a dispute as to engage in it; in the first case, you may drive many into the quarrel; in the second, you bring yourself into the scrape.

FAB. XCVIII.—THE HARE & THE TORTOISE.



The more haste the less speed.

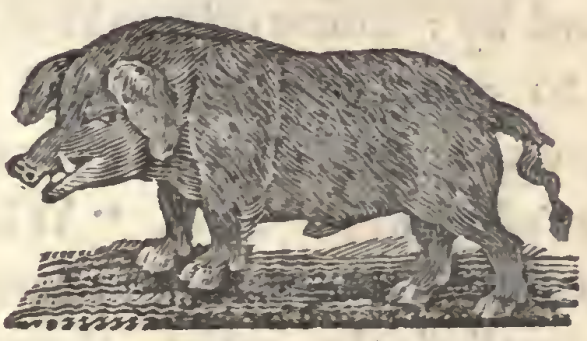
A Hare insulted a Tortoise upon account of his slowness, and vainly boasted of her own great speed in running. "Let us make a match," replied the Tortoise; "I'll run with you five miles for five pounds, and the Fox yonder shall be the umpire of the race." The Hare agreed, and away they both started together: but the Hare, by reason of her exceeding swiftness, outran the Tor-

toise to such a degree, that she made a jest of the matter; and finding herself a little tired, squatted in a tuft of fern that grew by the way, and took a nap; thinking, that if the Tortoise went by, she could at any time fetch him up, with all the ease imaginable. In the mean time, the Tortoise came jogging on with a slow but continued motion, and the Hare, out of a too great security and confidence of victory, over sleeping herself, the Tortoise arrived at the end of the race first.

THE APPLICATION.

He that wishes to win the race, ought not to think of sleeping until it be over; if he loses his breath at the beginning, he may expect to be last.

A slow and sure and steady pace,
In the long run will win the race.



FAB. XCIX.—THE WOLF IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING.



Hypocrisy is justly punished.

A Wolf, clothing himself in the skin of a Sheep, and getting amongst the flock, by this means took an opportunity to devour many of them. At last, the Shepherd discovered him, and cunningly fastened a rope about his neck, tied him up to a tree which stood hard by: Some other shepherds happening to pass that way, and observing what he was about, drew near, and expressed their admiration at it. "What," says one of them, "brother, do you hang sheep?" "No," replied the other, "but I hang a

Wolf whenever I catch him, though in the habit and garb of a sheep." Then he shewed them their mistake, and they applauded the justice of the execution.

THE APPLICATION.

Knavery is bad in all shapes; but it is made worse by hypocrisy; vice is never so disgusting as when it puts on the garb of Virtue, and every body applauds its punishment.



FAB. C.—THE WOLVES AND THE SHEEP.



If you deal with Knaves, you may expect to be cheated.

The Wolves and the Sheep had been a long time in a state of war together; at last a cessation of arms was proposed, in order to a treaty of peace, and hostages were to be delivered on both sides for security. The Wolves proposed that the Sheep should give up their dogs on the one side; and that they would deliver up their young ones on the other. This proposal was agreed to; but no sooner executed, than the young Wolves began to howl for want of their dams: The old ones took this opportunity to cry out, "The treaty was broke, and so falling

upon the Sheep, who were destitute of their faithful guardians, the dogs, they worried and devoured them without controul.

THE APPLICATION.

A dishonest man will make an opportunity to cheat if he do not find one; with such a person, innocence is no protection.



FAB. CI.—THE ASS EATING THISTLES.



Every one to his Humour.

An Ass was loaded with good provisions of several sorts, which in time of harvest, he was carrying into the field for his master and the reapers to dine upon. By the way, he met with a fine large thistle, and being very hungry, began to mumble it; which while he was doing, he entered into this reflection: "How many greedy epicures would think themselves happy amidst such a variety of delicate viands as I now carry! But to me, this bitter prickly thistle is more savoury and relishing, than the most exquisite and sumptuous banquet.

THE APPLICATION.

We ought not to dispute about tastes, for what is one Man's meat is another's Poison; every one knows what suits himself best, and it is well for us, that we do not all like the same thing, for then few could be satisfied.

FAB. CII.—THE HORSE AND THE LOADED ASS.



Do as you would be done by.

An idle Horse, and an Ass labouring under a heavy burden, were travelling the road together; they both belonged to a country fellow, who trudged it on foot by them. The Ass ready to faint under his heavy load, intreated the horse

to assist him, and lighten his burden by taking some of it upon his back. The Horse was ill-natured, and refused to do it; upon which, the poor Ass tumbled down in the midst of the highway, and expired in an instant. The countryman ungirthed his pack-saddle, and tried several ways to relieve him, but all to no purpose; which when he perceived, he took the whole burden and laid it upon the Horse, together with the skin of the dead Ass: so that the Horse, by his moroseness, in refusing to do a small kindness, justly brought upon himself a greater inconvenience.

THE APPLICATION.

We ought to be kind even to our enemies; what then shall be said of him who refuses to help his friend.



FAB. CIII.—THE BEES, THE DRONES, AND THE WASP.



A good cause makes a stout heart.

A parcel of Drones got into a hive among the Bees, and disputed the title with them, swearing that the honey and the comb were their goods. The Bees were obliged to go to law with them, and the Wasp happened to be Judge of the cause; one who was well acquainted with the nature of each, and, therefore, the better qualified to decide the controversy between them. Accordingly, "Gentlemen," says he, (speaking to both plaintiff and defendant,) "the usual method of

proceeding in these courts, is pretty expensive, and slow with all; therefore, as you are both my friends, and I wish you well, I desire you would refer the matter to me, and I will decide betwixt you instantly." They were both pleased with the offer, and returned him thanks. "Why then," says he, "that it may appear who are the just proprietors of these honeycombs, (for being both so nearly alike, as you are, in colour, I must needs own the point is somewhat dubious,) do you," addressing himself to the Bees, "take one hive and you;" speaking to the Drones, "another; and go to making honey as fast as you can, that we may know by the taste and colour of it, who has the best title to this in dispute." The Bees readily accepted the proposal, but the Drones would not stand to it. And so, Judge Wasp, without any further ceremony, declared in favour of the former.

THE APPLICATION.

Evil deeds love dark ness while virtue loves the light; he is generally in the wrong who will not let his cause come to trial.

FAB. CIV.—THE FOX IN THE WELL.



Fair words are good things,
Kind deeds are better.

A Fox having fallen into a well, made a shift, by sticking his claws into the sides, to keep his head ăbove water: soon after, a Wolf came and peeped over the brink; to whom the Fox applied himself very earnestly for assistance; entreating that he would help him to a rope, or something of that kind, which might favour his escape. The Wolf, moved with compassion at his misfortune, could not forbear expressing his concern: "Ah! poor Reynard," says he, "I am sorry for you with all my heart; how could you possibly

come into this melancholy condition?" "Nay pr'ythee, friend," replies the Fox, "if you wish me well, do not stand pitying me, but lend me some succour as fast as you can; for pity is but cold comfort when one is up to the chin in water, and within a hair's breadth of starving or drowning."

THE APPLICATION.

A true friend is known by his actions, empty professions are but mere sounds.



FAB. CV.—THE FOX AND THE WOLF.



Malice drinks most of its own poison.

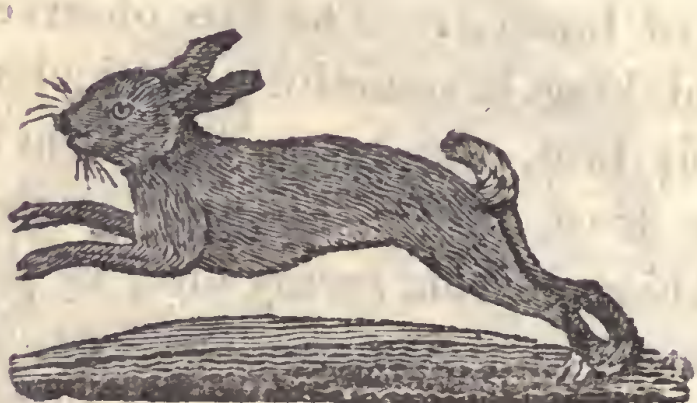
The Wolf, having laid in a store of provision, kept close at home, and made much of himself. The Fox observed this, and thinking it something particular, went to visit him, the better to inform himself of the truth of the matter, the wolf excused himself from seeing him, by pretending he was very much indisposed. All this did but confirm the Fox in his suspicions; so away he goes to a Shepherd, and made discovery of the wolf, telling him, he had nothing else to do but come with a good weapon, and knock him on the head as he lay in his cave. The Shepherd fol-

lowed his directions, and killed the Wolf. The wicked Fox enjoyed the cave and provisions to himself, but enjoyed them not long, for the same Shepherd passing afterwards by the same hole, and seeing the Fox there, dispatched him also.

THE APPLICATION.

I hate the man who builds his name
On ruins of another's fame.

It mostly happens, that he who intends to injure another, is himself the sufferer.



FAB. CVI.—THE FROG AND THE MOUSE.



We are seldom in such danger as when we yield to anger.

There was once a great strife between the Frog and the Mouse, which should be the Master of the fen, and wars ensued upon it: but the crafty Mouse, lurking under the grass in ambuscade, made sudden sallies, and often surprised the enemy at a disadvantage. The Frog excelling in strength, and being more able to keep abroad and keep the field, challenged the Mouse to single combat. The Mouse accepts the challenge, and each of them entered the lists, armed with the point of

a bulrush instead of a spear. A Kite sailing in the air, beheld them afar off; and while they were eagerly bent upon each other, and pressing on to the duel, this fatal enemy descended souse upon them, and with her crooked talons carried off both the champions.

THE APPLICATION.

In giving way to Anger, we always expose ourselves, and tho' the passion may last but a short time, its consequences may be lasting. He that is slow to anger, (as Solomon says) is better than the mighty, and he that ruleth his spirit, than he that taketh a city.

Anger is short lived madness—then subdue
Your passion, or your passion conquers you.

THE FINAL APPLICATION.

Be humble, learn thy self to scan,
Know Pride was never made for man;
Seek Virtue, and of that possest,
To Providence resign the rest,

